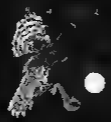


WITCHES
2
SHI DAISUKI

WITCHES VOL. II CONTENTS

Excerpt III
PETRA GENITALIX p 005

Excerpt IV
Thief of Songs p 105

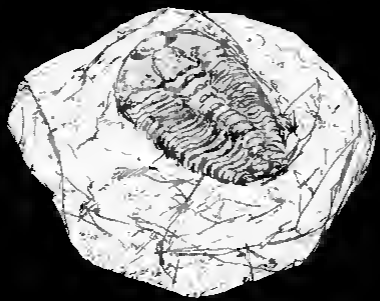
Beach p 197

Life is born unto a planet. The planet becomes dead dust.

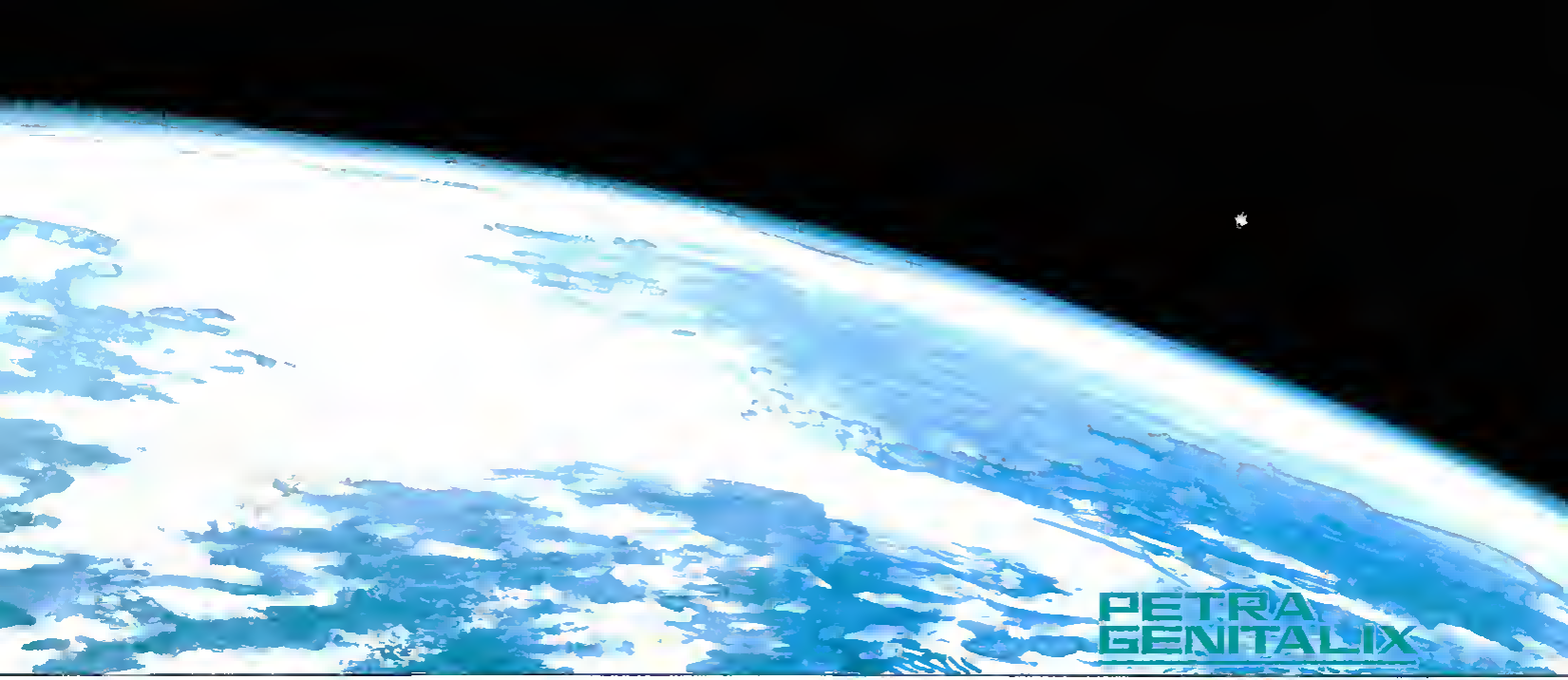
It appears again somewhere else, and blends itself. Reborn on a new planet. And dying once again.

As this process repeats itself, all things

are engraved with the memories of when they were life.

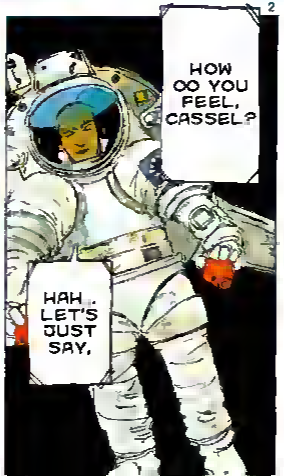


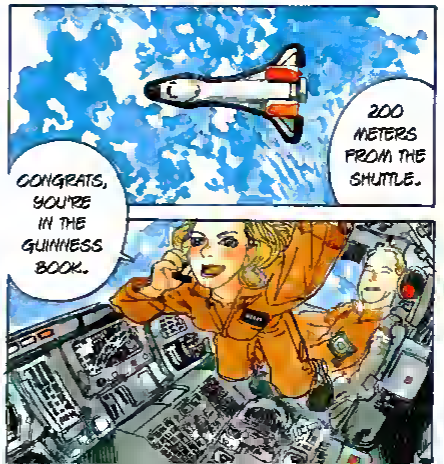
PETRA GENITALIX


PETRA
GENITALIX

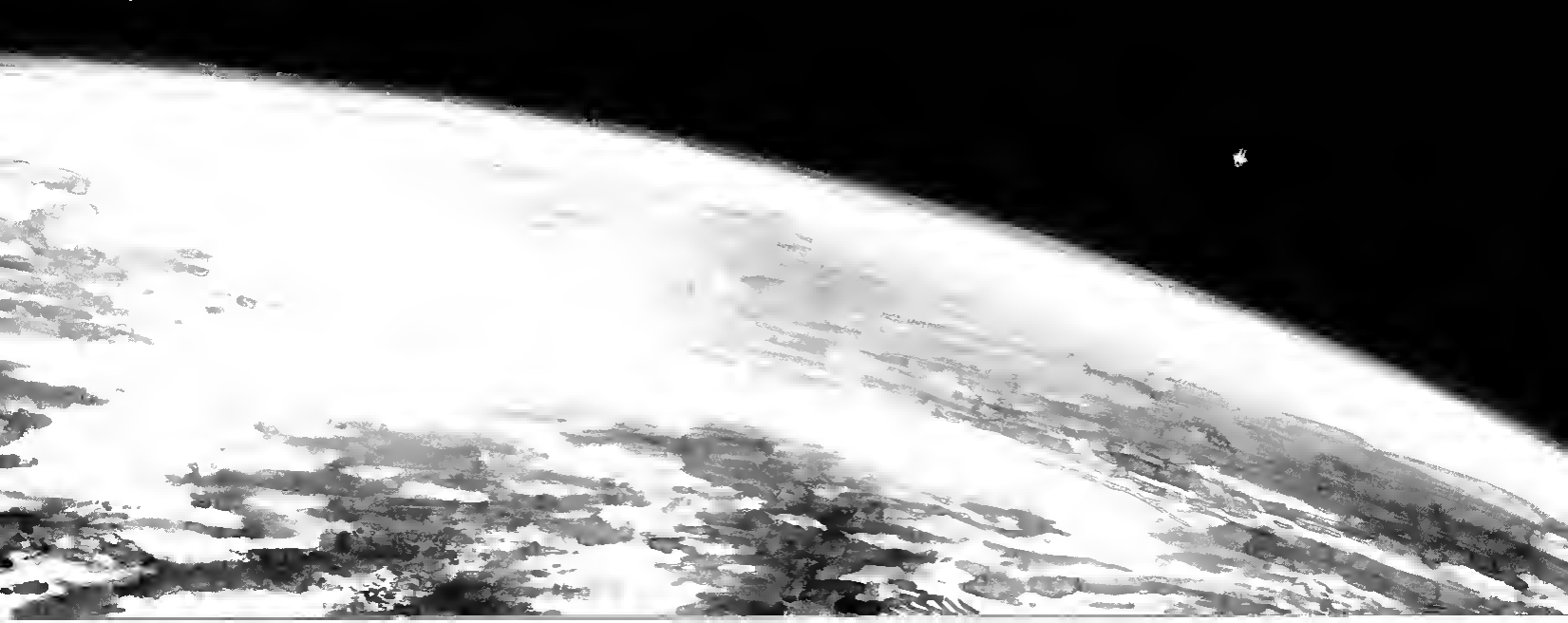
I'M A SATELLITE HELD CAPTIVE BY OUR PLANET.

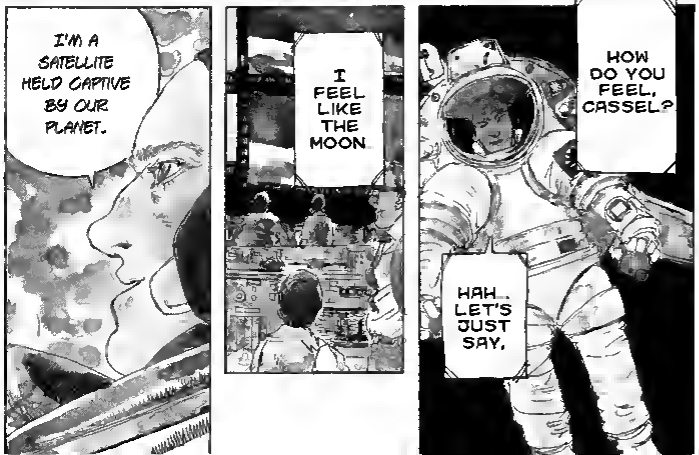
I FEEL LIKE THE MOON

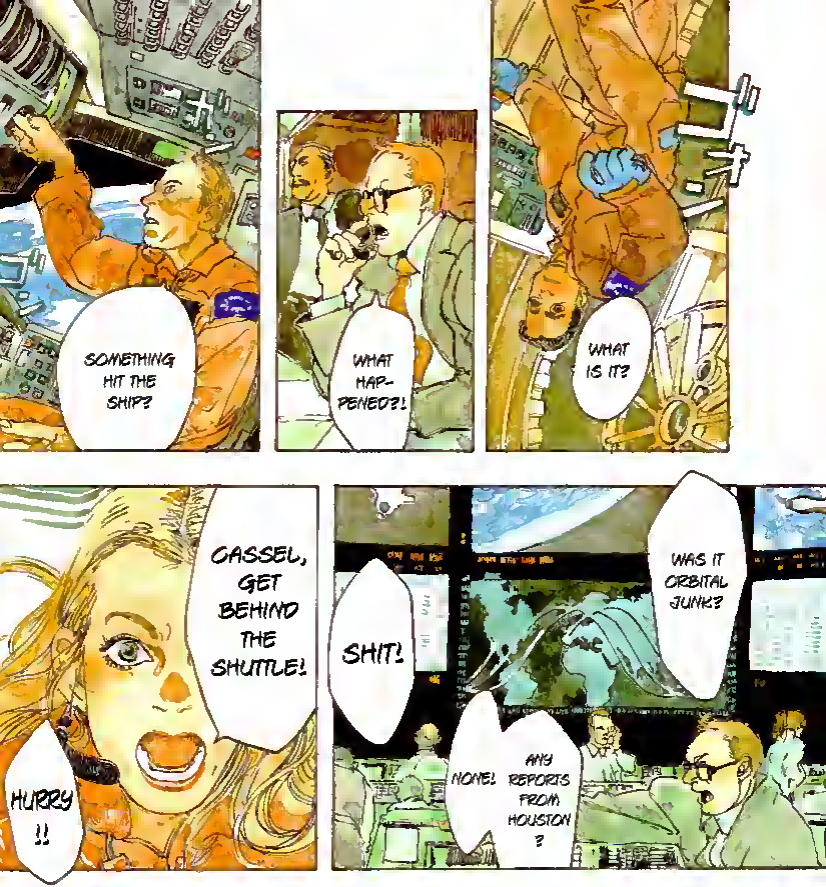

2
HOW DO YOU FEEL, CASSEL?
HAH, LET'S JUST SAY,

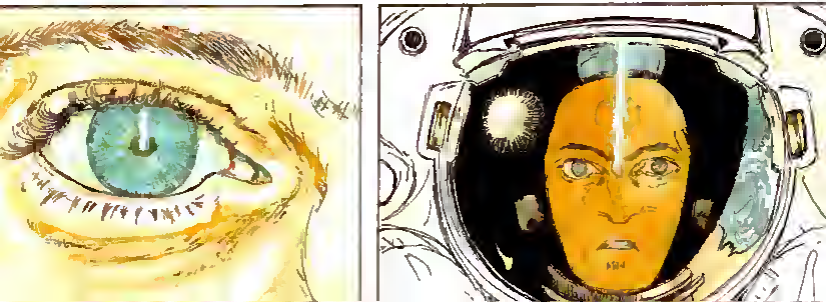

1
200 METERS FROM THE SHUTTLE.
CONGRATS, YOU'RE IN THE GUINNESS BOOK.

- In orbit, 300 kilometers above the Earth -






SOMETHING HIT THE SHIP?
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
WHAT IS IT?
ゴォー
CASSEL, GET BEHIND THE SHUTTLE!
HURRY !!
SHIT!
NONE!
ANY REPORTS FROM HOUSTON ?
WAS IT ORBITAL JUNK?

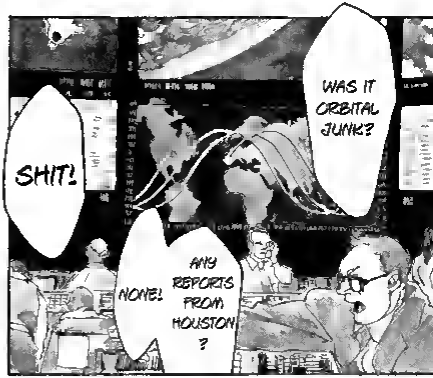


SOMETHING HIT THE SHIP?

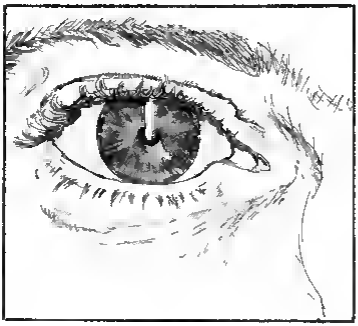
WHAT HAP-PENED?!

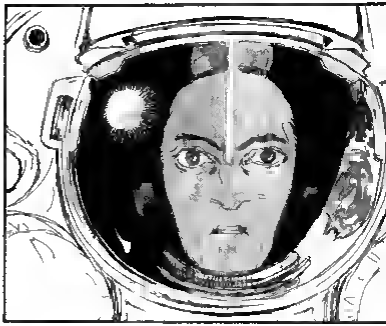
ゴォ
WHAT IS IT?

CASSEL, GET BEHIND THE SHUTTLE!
HURRY !!


WAS IT ORBITAL JUNK?
SHIT!
ANY REPORTS FROM HOUSTON?
NONE!

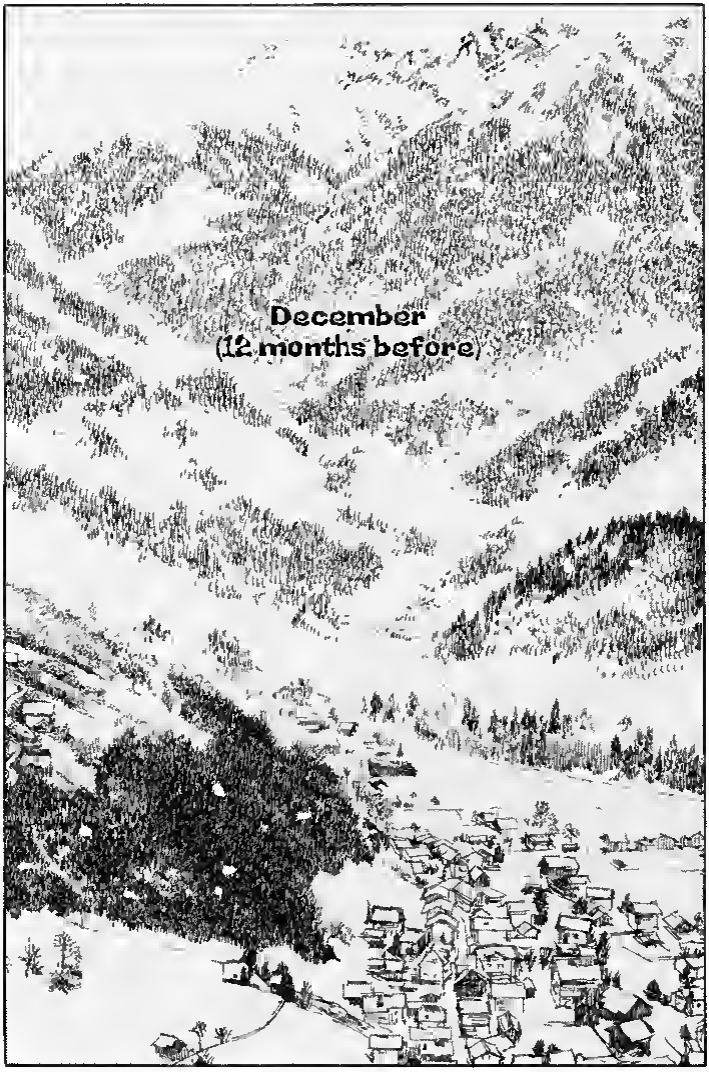
4





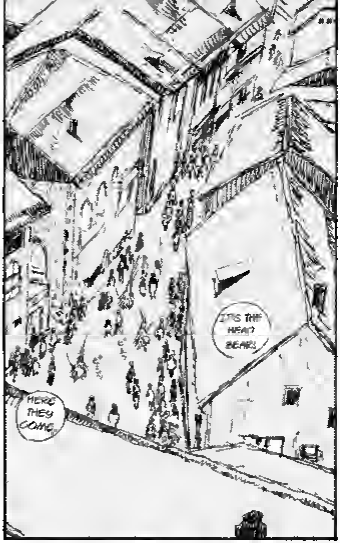
Mangascreener.com
translation: Stephen
scans: preyxr
edits: petr

PETRA GENITALIX


December
(12 months before)

KRAMPUS!
KRAMPUS!

ガラン
ガラン
ガラン


...
IT'S THE HEAD BEARS.
HERE THEY COME.

ガラン

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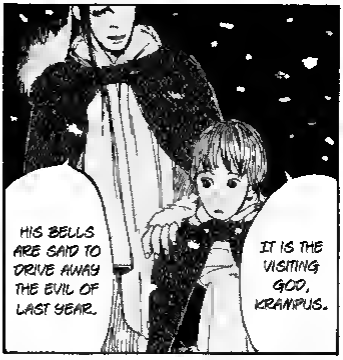
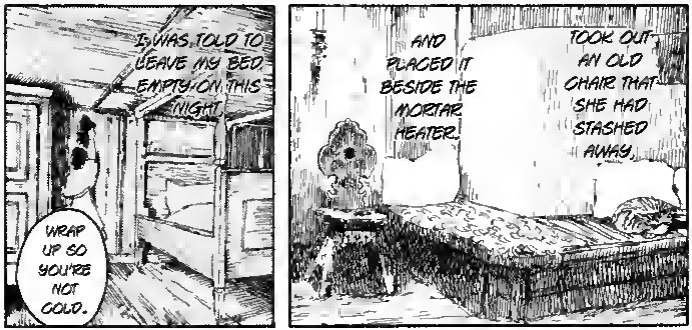
THE SNOW'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.
LET'S HURRY.


HIS BELLS ARE SAID TO DRIVE AWAY THE EVIL OF LAST YEAR.
IT IS THE VISITING GOD, KRAMPUS.

8

THE FIRST TIME I EXPERIENCED THE TWELVE NIGHTS.
IT WAS A NIGHT AFTER I CAME HERE.

LIT MORE LIGHTS THAN USUAL.
USED MORE FIREWOOD THAN USUAL, COOKED MORE FOOD THAN USUAL.
THE WOMAN OF THE HOUSE...

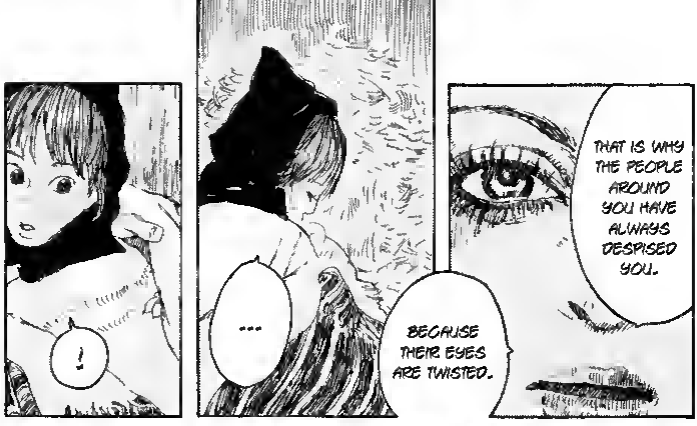

I WAS TOLD TO LEAVE MY BED EMPTY ON THIS NIGHT.
WRAP UP SO YOU'RE NOT COLD.
AND PLACED IT BESIDE THE MORTAR HEATER.
TOOK OUT AN OLD CHAIR THAT SHE HAD STASHED AWAY.

THE WOMAN OF THE HOUSE WOULD BE SLEEPING IN THE BARNROOM WITH ME.
LET'S GO.
WE LEFT THE FEE, STUNEATEN, ON THE TABLE, AND PREPARED TO SLEEP EARLY.

WHAT IS IT?

I GOT THE FEELING THAT
SOMEONE WAS SITTING IN THE CHAIR BY THE HEATER....
YOU SAW THAT?

IT'S OKAY. YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
UHHH...
I'M SORRY, THAT WAS A STRANGE THING TO SAY...
WELL... ACTUALLY... I MEAN...
PUNT
WE ARE VISITED BY THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, DURING THE TWELVE NIGHTS...
12
YOU CAN SEE THINGS DIRECTLY AS THEY ARE, WITH ALL YOUR SENSES.
BUCK
BUCK
THAT IS WHY WE MUST LEAVE THE BEDS EMPTY FOR THEM.

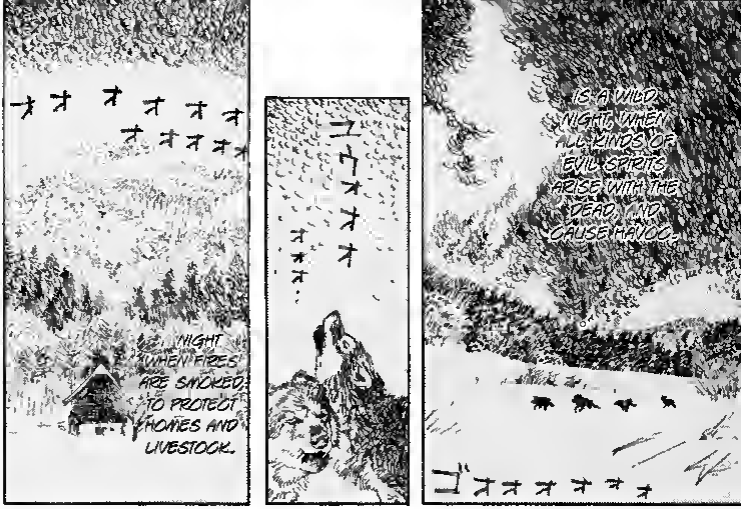

!
...
BECAUSE THEIR EYES ARE TWISTED.
THAT IS WHY THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU HAVE ALWAYS DESPISED YOU.

THANK YOU FOR NOTICING HER...
THANK YOU, ALICIA.

13

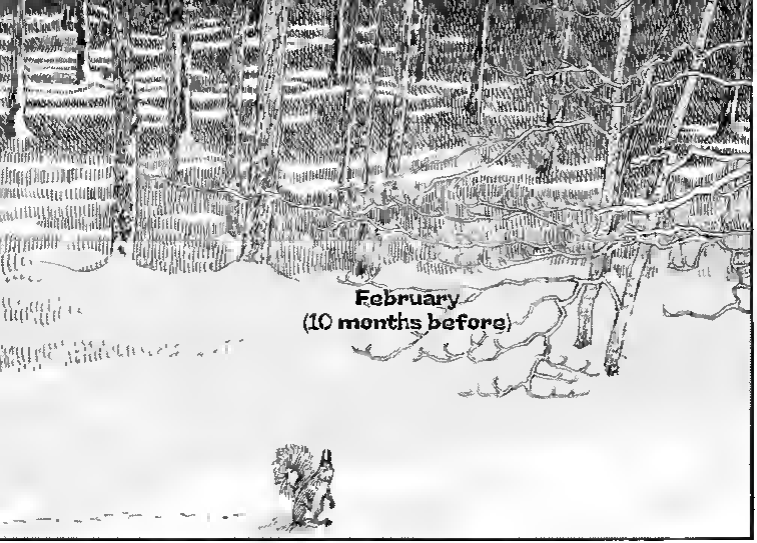
TONIGHT,
I WON'T BE KICKED OUT...
MAYBE THIS TIME...

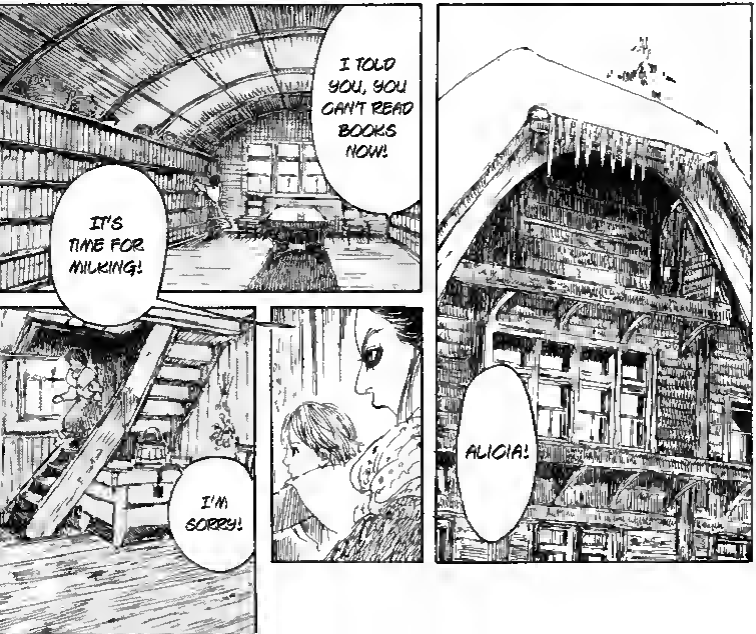
SHE'S WARM...


NIGHT WHEN FIRES ARE SMOKED TO PROTECT HOMES AND LIVESTOCK.
IS A WILD NIGHT WHEN ALL KINDS OF EVIL SPIRITS ARISE WITH THE DEAD, AND CAUSE HAVOC.

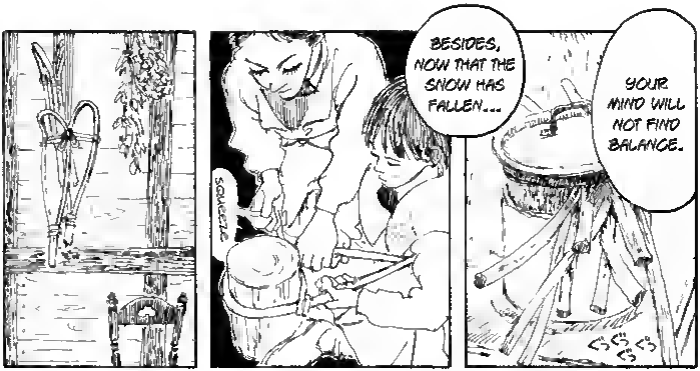
GULGAH
BUCK
14

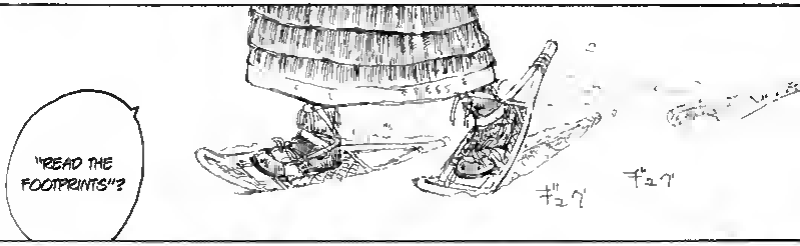
I BECAME FAMILY OF THE "GREAT WITCH" MIRA.
SNUFF
SNORT


February
(10 months before)


I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T READ BOOKS NOW!
IT'S TIME FOR MILKING!
I'M SORRY!
ALICIA!

OKAY, EAT UP.
DON'T MOVE.
WHAT?
HEY, MIRA.
KRRRR
WITHOUT EQUAL AMOUNTS OF WORDS AND EXPERIENCE,
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE.
WHY CAN'T I READ BOOKS?


BESIDES, NOW THAT THE SNOW HAS FALLEN...
YOUR MIND WILL NOT FIND BALANCE.
SQUUEEZE


"READ THE FOOTPRINTS"?

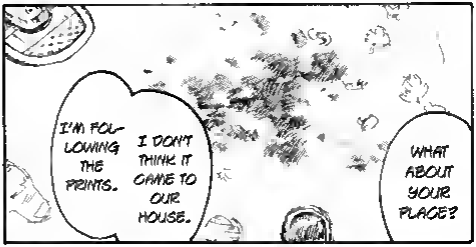
HANNA!
PRETTY BIG.
GOING TO HANNA'S HOUSE.
THAT'S A FOX.

KARL HERE WASN'T MUCH HELP, I'M AFRAID.
A FOX.

YAHH!

IT GOT ONE OF MY CHICKENS.
ALICIA.

SAY HELLO TO MIRA!
WOOF!


I'M FOLLOWING THE PRINTS.
I DON'T THINK IT CAME TO OUR HOUSE.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PLACE?

UH-OH, THE PRINTS ARE GETTING ROUGHER.
OH! I KNOW!

HEE HEE.

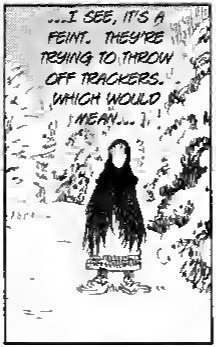
HOP!
THEN JUMPS.
SQUIRM.
LAND!

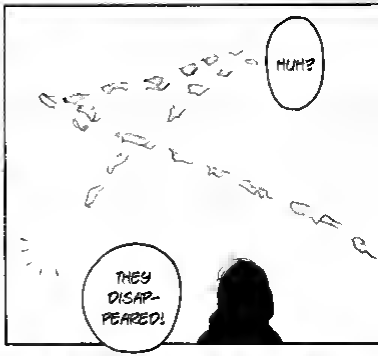
"KARL'S JOB IS TO BE WITH HANNA."
KARL MUST HAVE CHASED IT A BIT, THEN TURNED BACK.
GOES DOWN THIS HILL....

KARL MUST HAVE INJURED ONE OF THEM!
THEY WENT DOWN INTO THE DALE HERE FOR WATER.

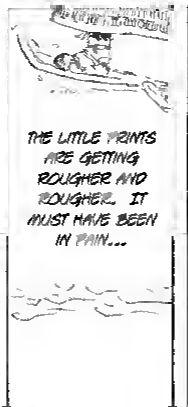
THERE WERE TWO OF THEM!
HOW CLEVER!! THEY WERE BOTH STEPPING ON ENTIRELY THE SAME SPOTS IN THE SNOW.
TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE JUST ONE!

I'D TRACE MY STEPS BACKWARD A WAYS, THEN STEEL MY STRENGTH AND...
IF IT WAS ME...

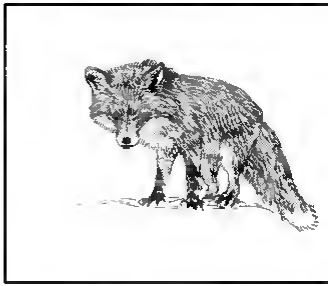

...I SEE, IT'S A FEINT. THEY'RE TRYING TO THROW OFF TRACKERS. WHICH WOULD MEAN...


HUM?
THEY DISAP-PEARED!

BYOWFT!
OH!


THE LITTLE PRINTS ARE GETTING ROUGHER AND ROUGHER. IT MUST HAVE BEEN IN PAIN...

JUMP!
THERE THEY ARE! I KNEW IT!

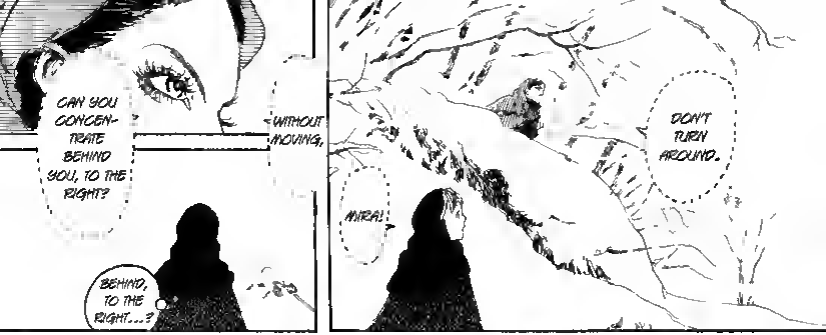


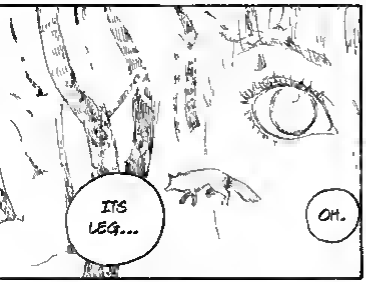
IS IT... DRAWING MY ATTENTION?

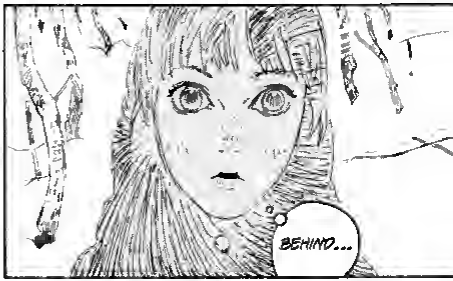
BYOWF

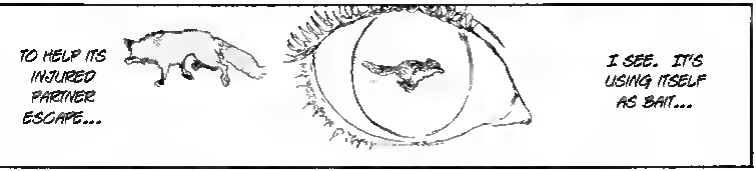
BYOWF

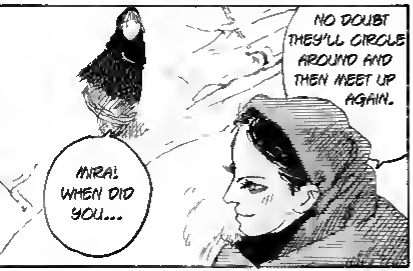
BYOWF

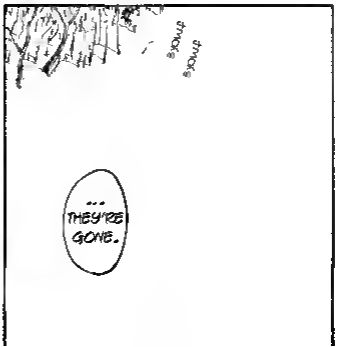

CAN YOU CONCENTRATE BEHIND YOU, TO THE RIGHT?
BEHIND, TO THE RIGHT...?
-WITHOUT MOVING,
MIRA!
DON'T TURN AROUND.


ITS LEG...
OH.

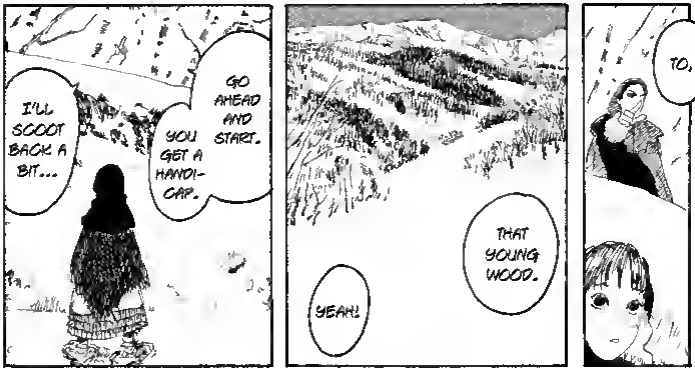

BEHIND...


TO HELP ITS INJURED PARTNER ESCAPE...
I SEE. IT'S USING ITSELF AS BAIT...

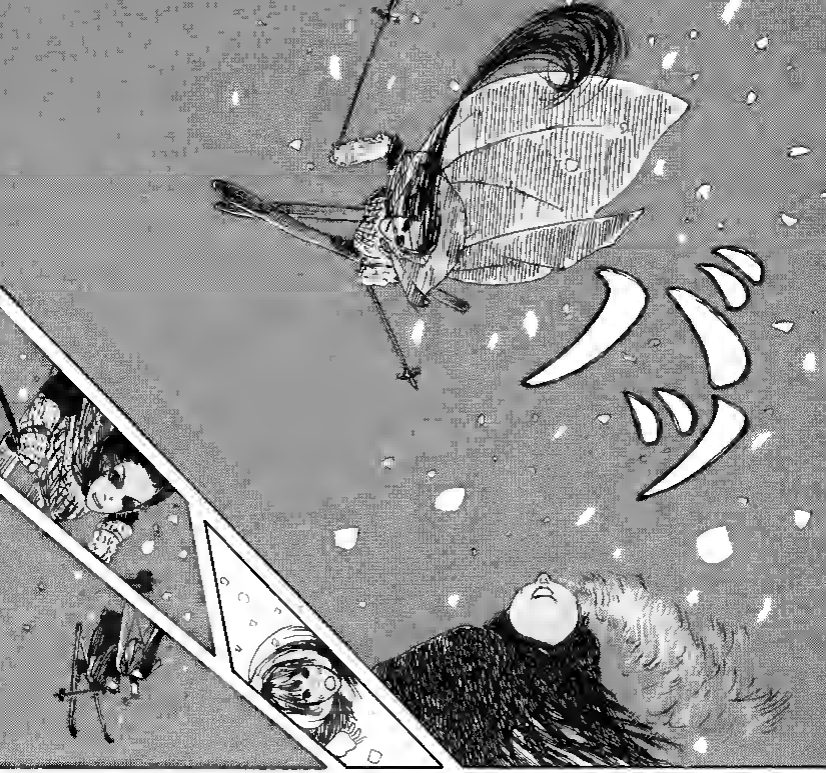

NO DOUBT THEY'LL CIRCLE AROUND AND THEN MEET UP AGAIN.
MIRA! WHEN DID YOU....


SHOULD SHOULD
...THEY'RE GONE.

THEY WERE A QUICK FIX, BUT THEY PROBABLY FIT BETTER THAN MINE.
OKAY! LET'S RACE.
ISN'T IT NEAT, READING FOOT-PRINTS?
SO, HOW ARE THE NEW SNOW-SHOES WORKING OUT?
GOOD. THEY'RE EASY TO WALK IN.

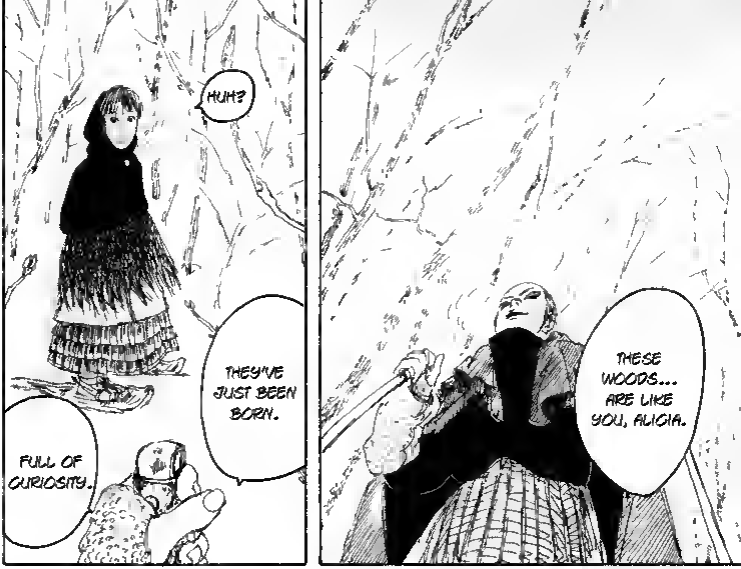

I'LL SCOOT BACK A BIT...
GO AHEAD AND START. YOU GET A HANDI-CAP.
YEAH!
THAT YOUNG WOOD.
TO.

...MYRA?

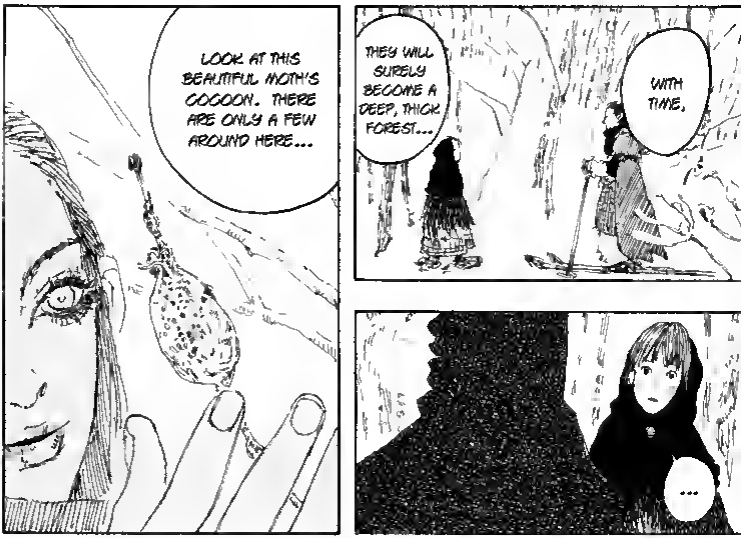

ゾゾゾ

...
...NO FAIR...

ドスッ

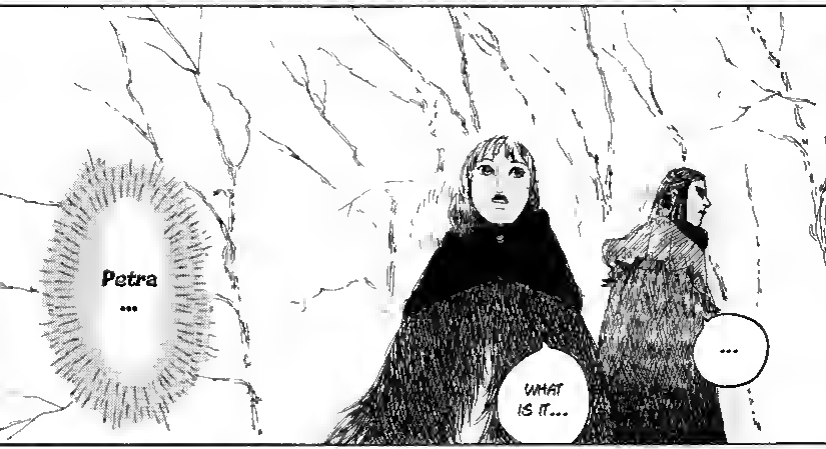

HUH?
THEY'VE JUST BEEN BORN.
FULL OF CURIOSITY.
THESE WOODS... ARE LIKE YOU, ALICIA.

24


LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL MOTH'S COCOON. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW AROUND HERE...
THEY WILL SURELY BECOME A DEEP, THICK FOREST...
WITH TIME,
...

THERE'S ONE OVER HERE, TOO.
AND OVER THERE...
SCRAPE SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE SCRAPE SCRAPE
SCRAPE SCRAPE

25


Petra ...
WHAT IS IT...
...

I THINK THEY WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

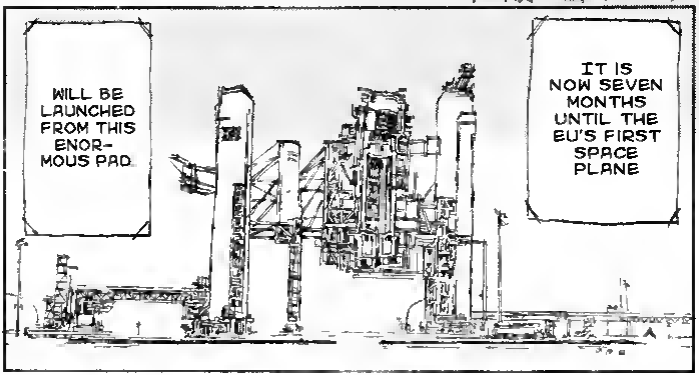
THE WOODS LIKE YOU TOO, ALICIA...

HUH?

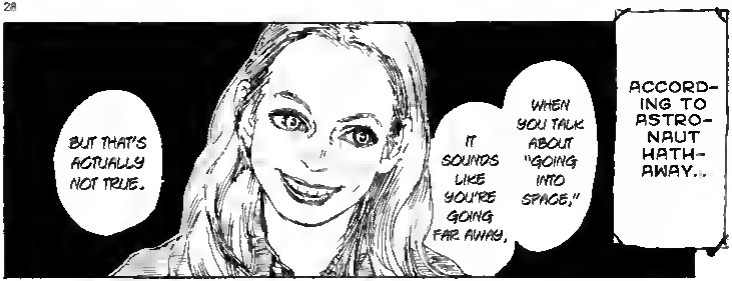
OH... THEY STOPPED.

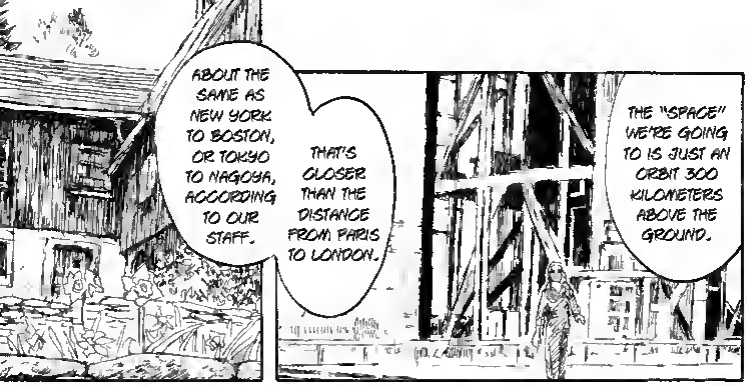
PETRA... "STONE."

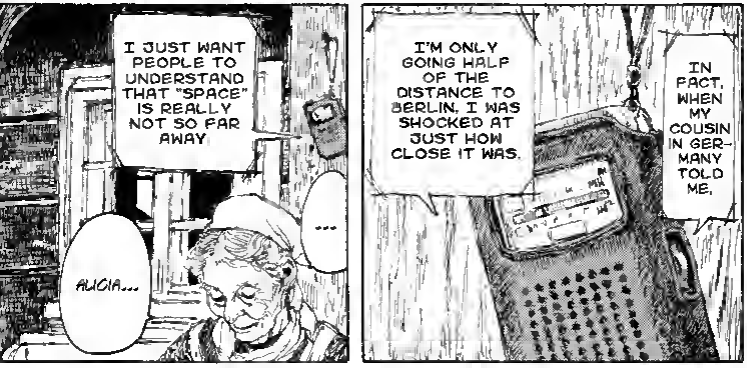
May
(7 months before)



28


BUT THAT'S ACTUALLY NOT TRUE.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GOING FAR AWAY.
WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT "GOING INTO SPACE,"
ACCORD-ING TO ASTRO-NAUT HATH-AWAY..

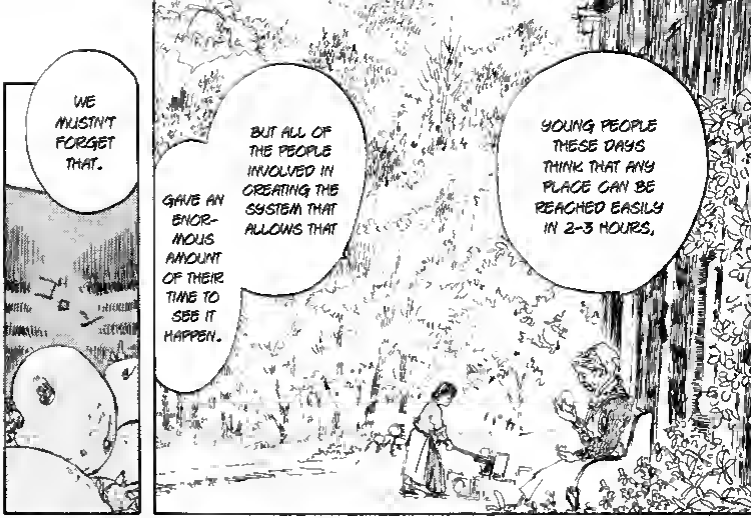

ABOUT THE SAME AS NEW YORK TO BOSTON, OR TOKYO TO NAGOYA, ACCORDING TO OUR STAFF.
THAT'S CLOSER THAN THE DISTANCE FROM PARIS TO LONDON.
THE "SPACE" WE'RE GOING TO IS JUST AN ORBIT 300 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE GROUND.


I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT "SPACE" IS REALLY NOT SO FAR AWAY.
...
ALICIA...
I'M ONLY GOING HALF OF THE DISTANCE TO BERLIN. I WAS SHOCKED AT JUST HOW CLOSE IT WAS.
IN FACT, WHEN MY COUSIN IN GERMANY TOLD ME,

...

IT WAS A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

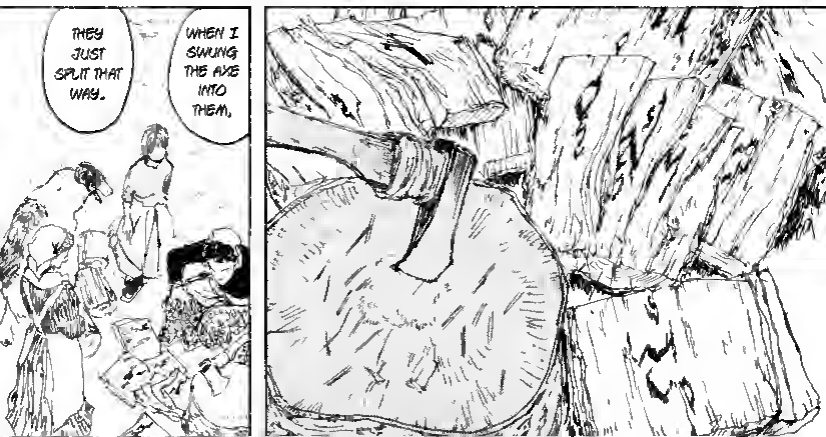
DIED WHILE CREATING A ROAD FROM OUR VILLAGE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.
MY GRANDFATHER AND FATHER


WE MUSTN'T FORGET THAT.
GAVE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF THEIR TIME TO SEE IT HAPPEN.
BUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CREATING THE SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS THAT
YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS THINK THAT ANY PLACE CAN BE REACHED EASILY IN 2-3 HOURS.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING.
I ONLY HOPE THAT NOTHING COMES OF IT...
...
FORGET THIS SIMPLE THING.
IT IS A TERRIBLE THING WHEN PEOPLE WHO USE GREAT TECHNOLOGY
SOMEONE ELSE IS ALWAYS SHOULDERING THE BURDEN OF YOUR "LEISURE."

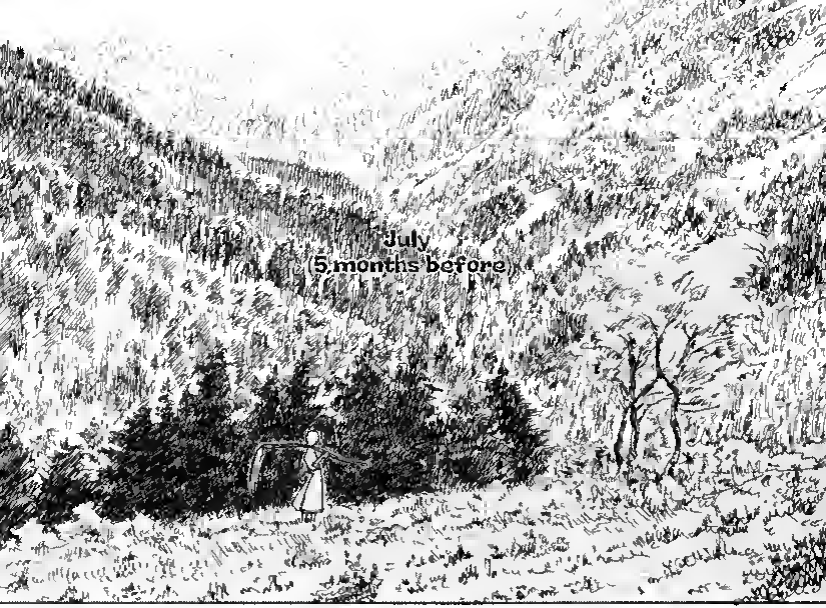
THE GROUND IS COLD.
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP

MIRA!
MIRA! WAIT!
THE HERB GARDEN WILL NEED A FROST GUARD.
I WAS SPLITTING LOGS AT HANNA'S HOUSE,
AND THERE WERE LETTERS IN THE WOOD...
BUT THEY WERE JUST NORMAL LOGS!


WHEN I SWUNG THE AXE INTO THEM,
THEY JUST SPLIT THAT WAY.

...
WHAT... DOES IT SAY?
THIS IS ANCIENT OGHAM HOLY SCRIPT.
..."THE SELF."
COULD THIS...
BE SOME SORT OF SIGN?
DEAR GOD ...
DURING THIS CHAL-LENGE
IT ALSO MEANS "LIFE."

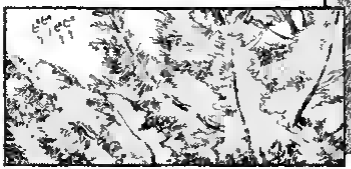
WE BELIEVE THE RESULTS WE BRING BACK FROM SPACE
WILL EVENTU-ALLY BECOME A BLESSING FOR ALL OF MANKIND

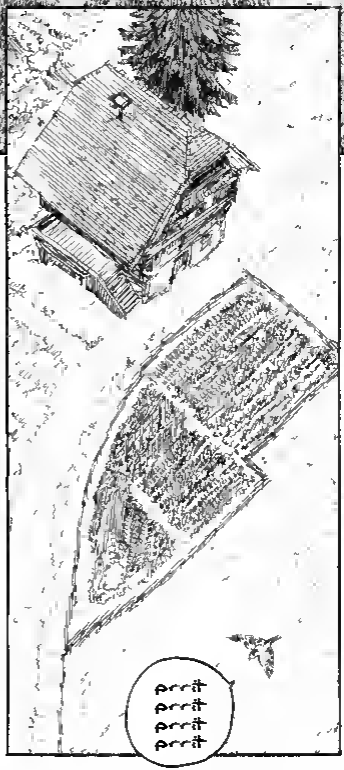

July
(5 months before)

WHEN YOU WASH THE PORCELAIN, WRAP THE SINK IN TOWELS.

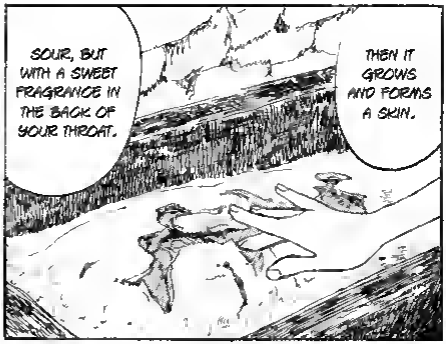
33

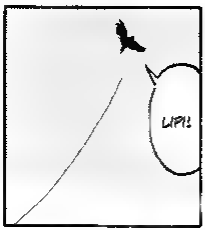
THE "WC ZLD" INDICATES JUST ONE WORD.





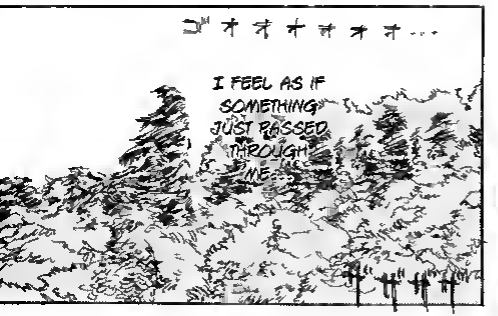
IN A LITTLE WHILE, IT WILL BE USABLE AS BREAD.


SOUR, BUT WITH A SWEET FRAGRANCE IN THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT.
THEN IT GROWS AND FORMS A SKIN.

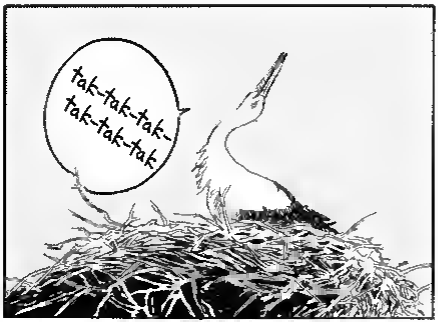

UP!

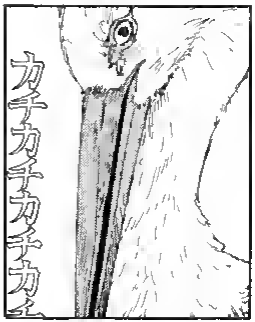
A SKY-LARK.

reborn into a different form...
...grain that was crushed and killed once,
...HUH?

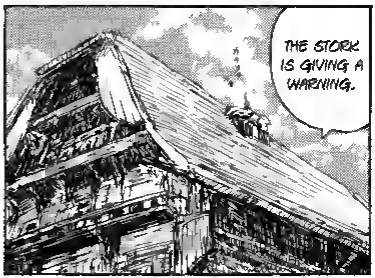

ゴオオオオオオオ...
I FEEL AS IF SOMETHING JUST PASSED THROUGH ME...

ザァ

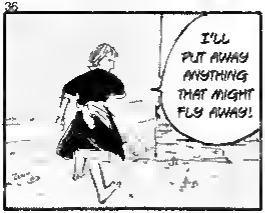

tak-tak-tak-
tak-tak-tak


カチカチカチカチ

ALICIA.

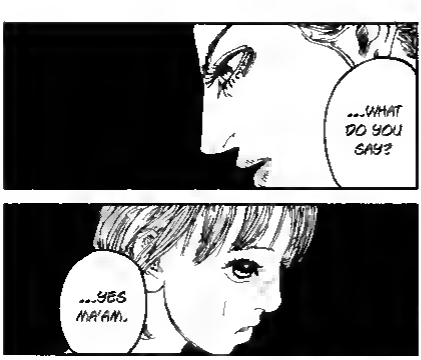

THE STORK IS GIVING A WARNING.

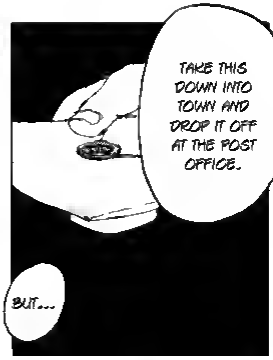
WE NEED A WIND-BREAKER FOR THE GARDEN, AND...


I'LL PUT AWAY ANYTHING THAT MIGHT FLY AWAY!

WHEN THOSE LEVEL CLOUDS REACH THAT MOUNTAIN THERE, IT MEANS A COLD STORM IS COMING SOON.

ヤア
THE WINTER THIS YEAR JUST SITS AND STAYS.
THE SEASONS DON'T WANT TO MOVE FORWARD.
THEY'RE SCARED.
カタカタカタカタ
OF WHAT WAITS TO SWALLOW US AT THE END OF THE LINE...
37
PETRA GENITALIX, THE STONE OF REPRODUCTION.


...WHAT DO YOU SAY?
...YES MA'AM.

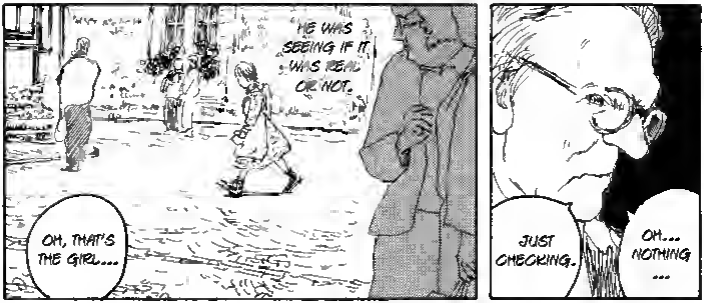

TAKE THIS DOWN INTO TOWN AND DROP IT OFF AT THE POST OFFICE.
BUT...

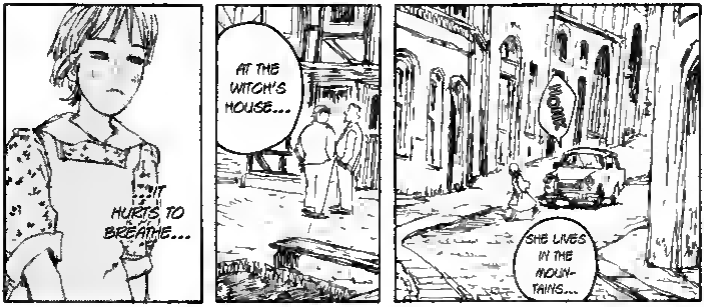
I HATE THE TOWN...

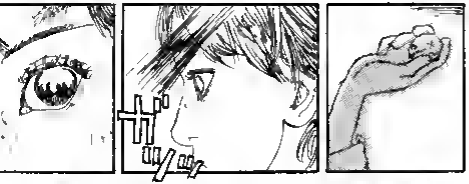
WHAT'S THAT?

...VERY WELL.

I NEED THIS SENT.


HE WAS SEEING IF IT WAS REAL OR NOT.
OH, THAT'S THE GIRL...
JUST CHECKING.
OH... NOTHING ...

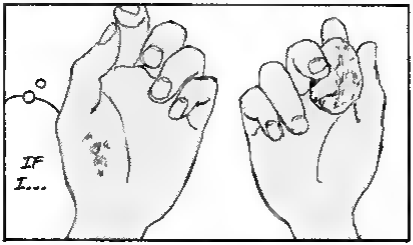

...IT HURTS TO BREATHE...
AT THE WITCH'S HOUSE...
SHE LIVES IN THE MOUN-TAINS...



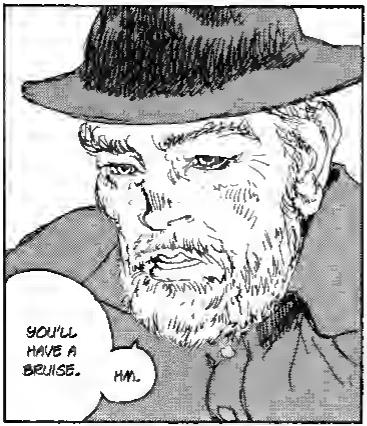
RUN!
YOU, IDIOT... I TOLD YOU TO AIM FOR THE GLASS.
OH, I HIT HER.

IT FEELS LIKE ALL THE PORES IN MY BODY ARE BLOCKED WITH WAX...
WHEN I COME HERE,

SHE'LL CURSE US.
SHE'LL KILL US.


IF I...

40


YOU'LL HAVE A BRUISE.
HM.

THIS WOULDN'T HAVE...
HADN'T COME HERE...

LET ME SEE THAT.
!

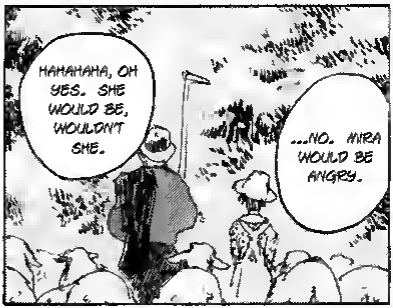
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO LIVES AT MIRA'S, AREN'T YOU?
I LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE SUMMER.
I'M LUDGER, A SHEPHERD.
I TAKE CARE OF MIRA'S SHEEP.
...
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
MEHH.
WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF?
THOSE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF.
THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THE THINGS THAT FORM OUR LIVES TODAY COME FROM.
THEY DON'T KNOW THE CREATION OF THINGS.
41
THAT'S WHY THEY ARE MANIPULATED BY RUMORS WITHOUT ROOTS.
WITHOUT ROOTS, WE CANNOT STAND UP ON OUR OWN.
THOSE THINGS ARE OUR ROOTS.

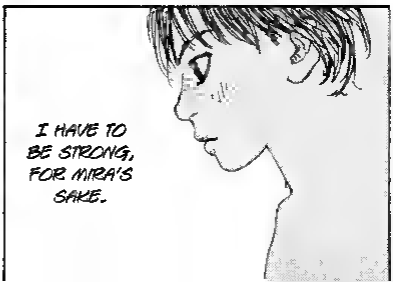
!
NEITHER YOU NOR MIRA DESERVE THAT KIND OF TREATMENT.

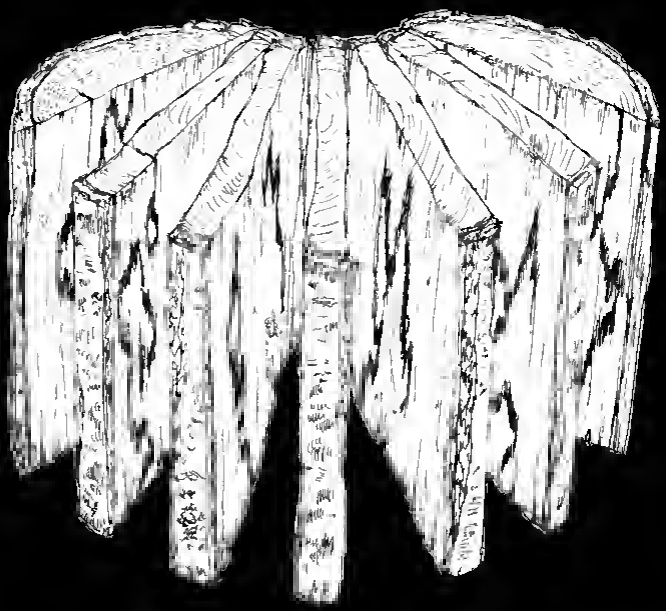
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MIRA IF YOU START THINKING THAT WAY?
NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT.

IF NOT, THEN MIRA WILL BE SAD. WON'T SHE?
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

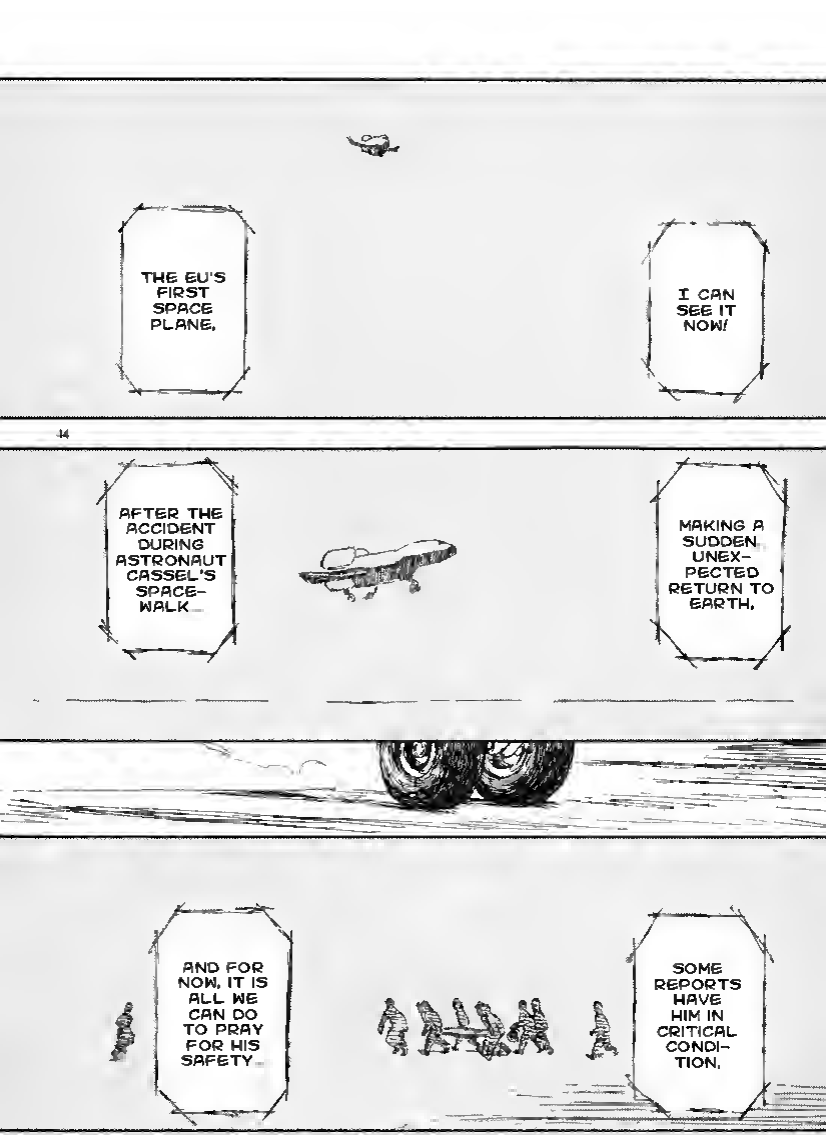
ONLY TREES WITH STRONG ROOTS GROW THICK BRANCHES AND RICH LEAVES.


HAHAHAHA, OH YES. SHE WOULD BE, WOULDN'T SHE.
...NO. MIRA WOULD BE ANGRY.

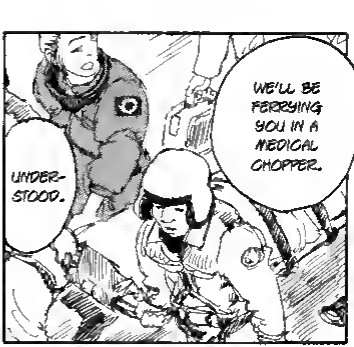

I HAVE TO BE STRONG, FOR MIRA'S SAKE.



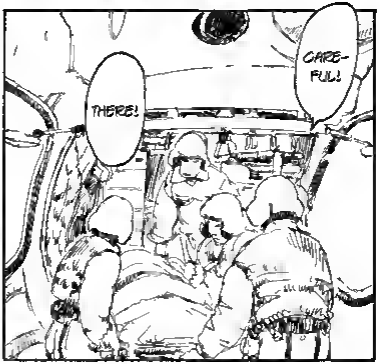
December
(Now)

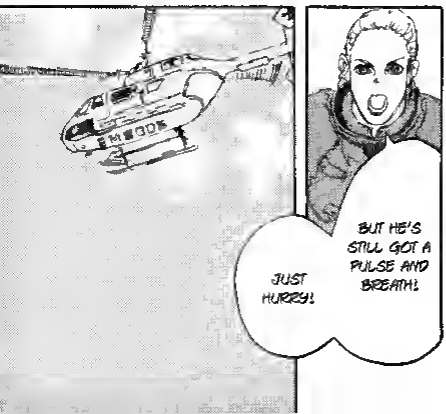

THE EU'S FIRST SPACE PLANE,
I CAN SEE IT NOW!
14
AFTER THE ACCIDENT DURING ASTRONAUT CASSEL'S SPACE-WALK...
MAKING A SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED RETURN TO EARTH,
AND FOR NOW, IT IS ALL WE CAN DO TO PRAY FOR HIS SAFETY...
SOME REPORTS HAVE HIM IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

IT'S STUCK IN HIS HEAD; WE CAN'T TELL.
WAS IT A METEOROID THAT STRUCK HIM, OR AN ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE?


UNDER-STOOD.
WE'LL BE FERRYING YOU IN A MEDICAL CHOPPER.

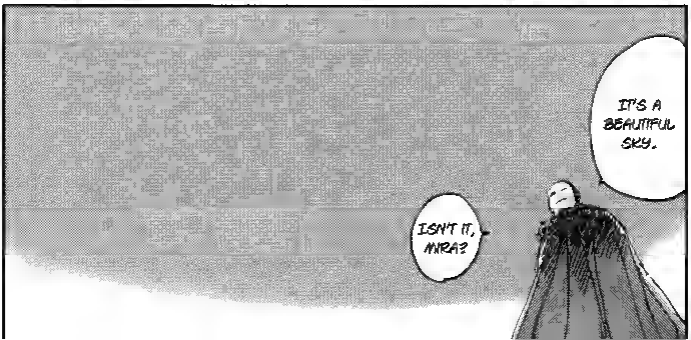
HIS VISOR WAS BROKEN IN A VACUUM ...
WHA...

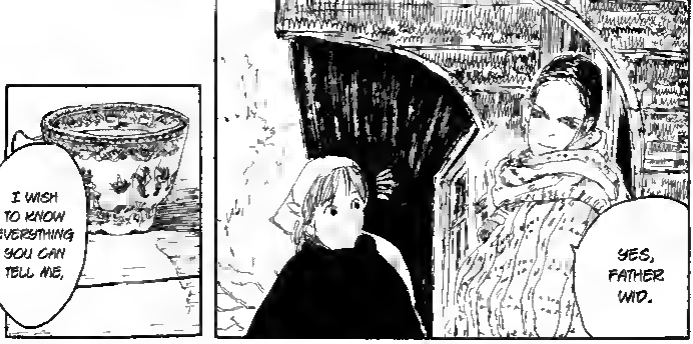

THERE!
CARE-FUL!


JUST HURRY!
BUT HE'S STILL GOT A PULSE AND BREATH!

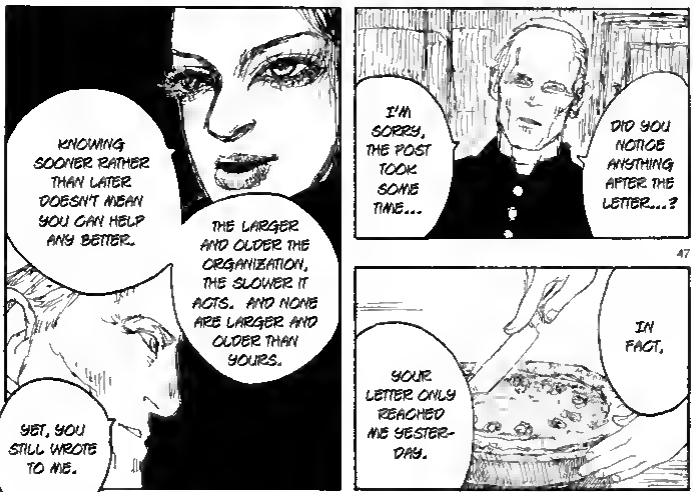
HE CAN'T... HE CAN'T POSSIBLY STILL BE ALIVE...

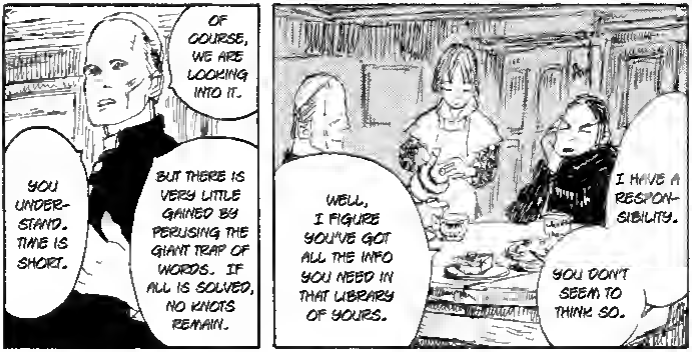
HMM.

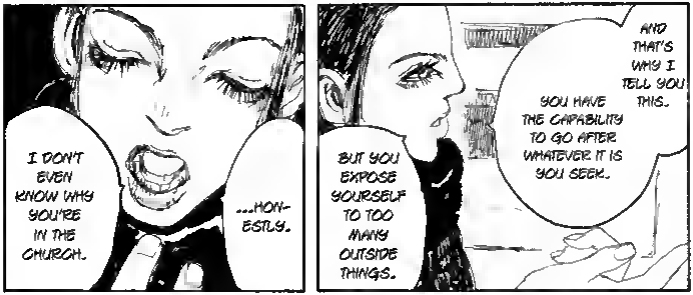

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SKY.
ISN'T IT, ANRA?

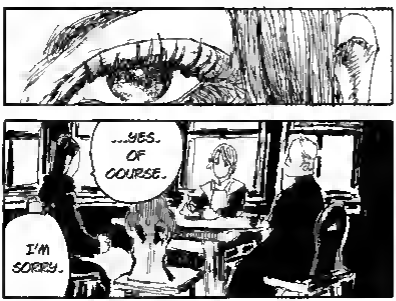

I WISH TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU CAN TELL ME,
YES, FATHER WID.

I HAVEN'T CONVERSED DIRECTLY WITH THE "STONE," SO I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
AS I WROTE IN THE LETTER,
HYRA'S TARTS ARE THE BEST.
OH, THAT LOOKS GOOD.
ABOUT THE PETRA GENITALIX.


KNOWING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN HELP ANY BETTER.
THE LARGER AND OLDER THE ORGANIZATION, THE SLOWER IT ACTS. AND NONE ARE LARGER AND OLDER THAN YOURS.
YET, YOU STILL WROTE TO ME.
I'M SORRY, THE POST TOOK SOME TIME...
DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING AFTER THE LETTER...?
IN FACT,
YOUR LETTER ONLY REACHED ME YESTER-DAY.


OF COURSE, WE ARE LOOKING INTO IT.
BUT THERE IS VERY LITTLE GAINED BY PERUSING THE GIANT TRAP OF WORDS. IF ALL IS SOLVED, NO KNOTS REMAIN.
YOU UNDER-STAND. TIME IS SHORT.
WELL, I FIGURE YOU'VE GOT ALL THE INFO YOU NEED IN THAT LIBRARY OF YOURS.
I HAVE A RESPON-SIBILITY.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO THINK SO.

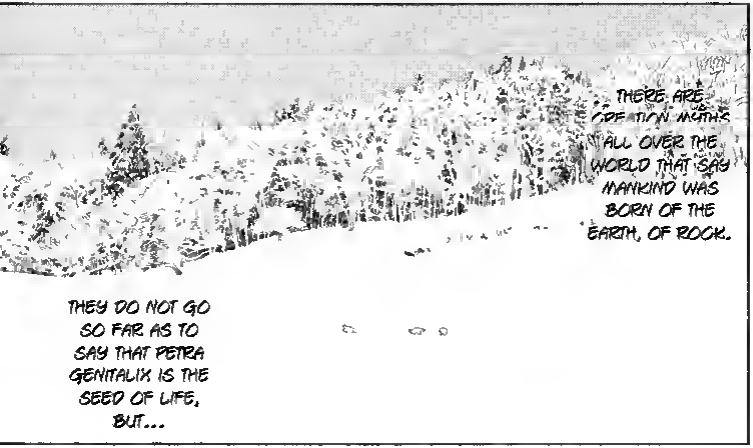

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY YOU'RE IN THE CHURCH.
...HON-ESTLY.
BUT YOU EXPOSE YOURSELF TO TOO MANY OUTSIDE THINGS.
YOU HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO GO AFTER WHATEVER IT IS YOU SEEK.
AND THAT'S WHY I TELL YOU THIS.

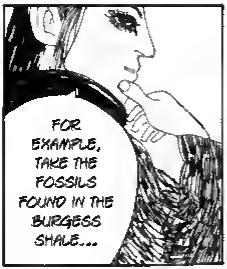

...YES. OF COURSE.
I'M SORRY.
...

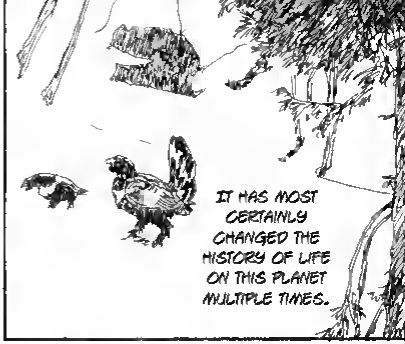
BECAUSE...
GOD DOES EXIST, WITHOUT A DOUBT.

TO USE ALICIA'S WORDS, THE PETRA GENITALIX
HAS THE POWER TO TAKE SOMETHING DEAD ONCE AND REBIRTH IT INTO A DIFFERENT FORM....

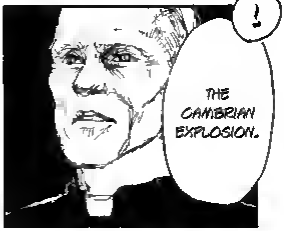
BUT... THAT WAS ABOUT YEAST...
ALICIA.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WORDS BORN IN FARAWAY PLACES PASS THROUGH YOUR LIPS.
NOT ALL SIGNS OF THE FUTURE ARE TOLD BY OTHERS.


THERE ARE CREATION MYTHS ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT SAY MANKIND WAS BORN OF THE EARTH, OF ROCK.
THEY DO NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT PETRA GENITALIX IS THE SEED OF LIFE, BUT...

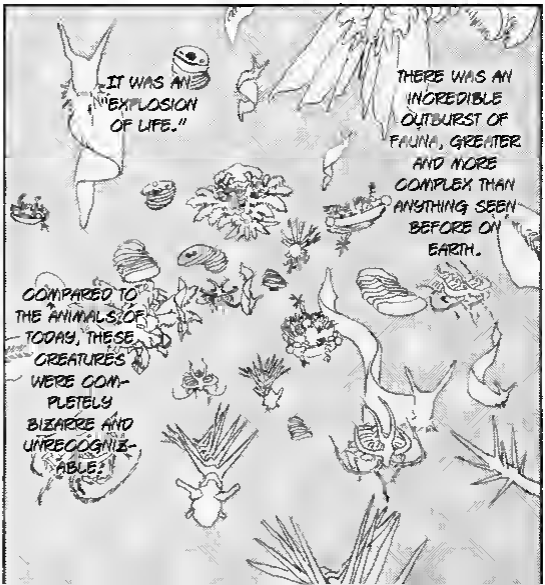

FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE THE FOSSILS FOUND IN THE BURGESS SHALE...


IT HAS MOST CERTAINLY CHANGED THE HISTORY OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET MULTIPLE TIMES.

CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION?
OVER 500 MILLION YEARS AGO,

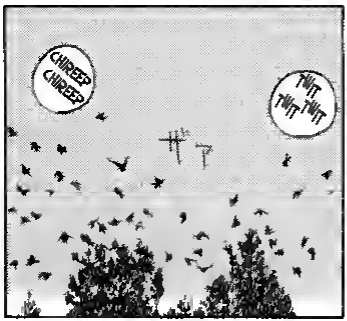

!
THE CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION.

MOST OF THEM DIED OUT, UNABLE TO SURVIVE AND LEAVE DESCENDANTS...


"IT WAS AN EXPLOSION OF LIFE."
THERE WAS AN INCREDIBLE OUTBURST OF FAUNA, GREATER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN ANYTHING SEEN BEFORE ON EARTH.
COMPARED TO THE ANIMALS OF TODAY, THESE CREATURES WERE COMPLETELY BIZARRE AND UNRECOGNIZABLE.

CAS-SEL...
51
ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT IT.
WHY DID THIS EXPLOSION OF LIFE HAPPEN...?
EXTRAC-TING IT NOW.
BEGIN PROCE-DURE.
FOREIGN BODY IS RIGHT HERE.
CREATURES BEYOND THE FLOW OF EVOLUTION.

WHOOSH
OH!


CHIRRP CHIRRP
TWIT TWIT TWIT

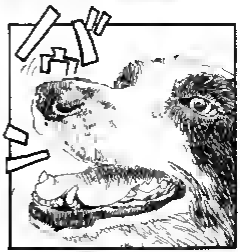
EHH

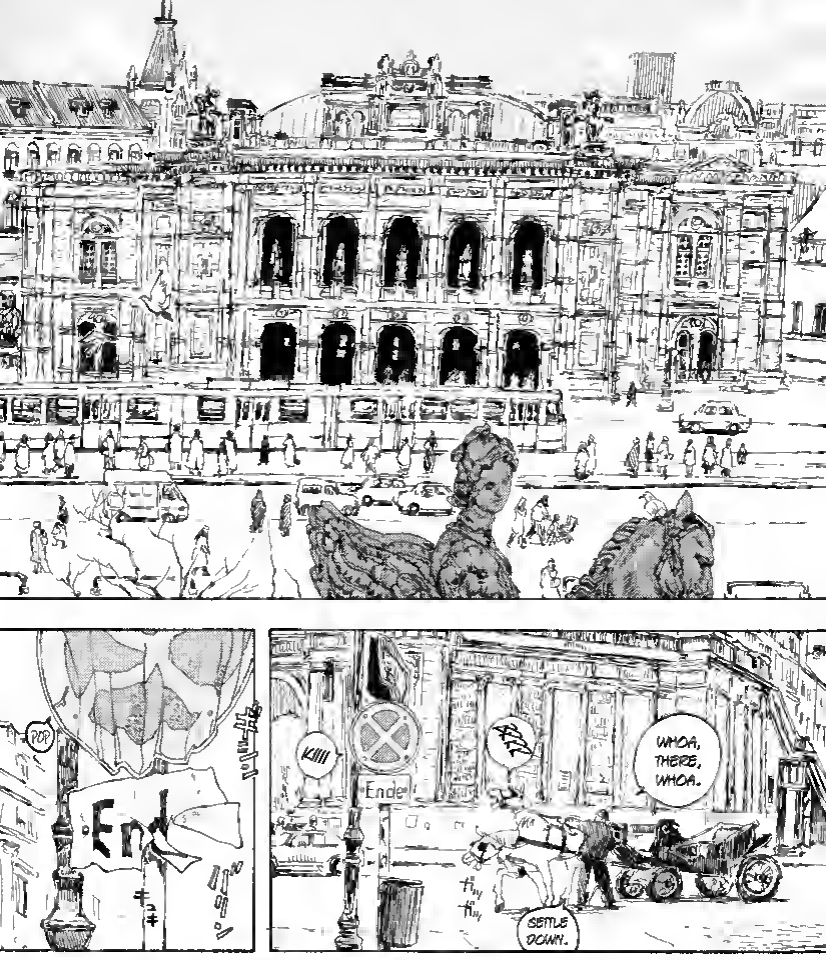
BUCK
BUCK
BUCK

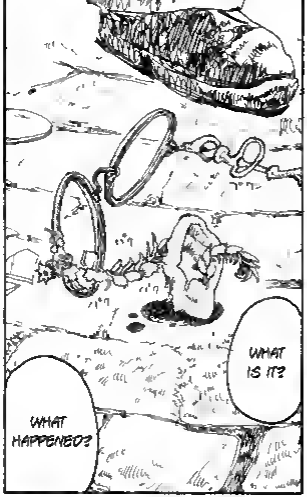
GWAK GWAKK

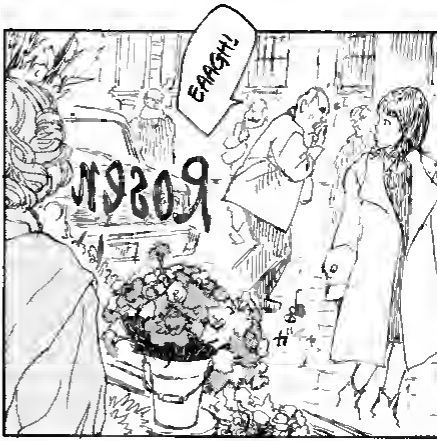
52

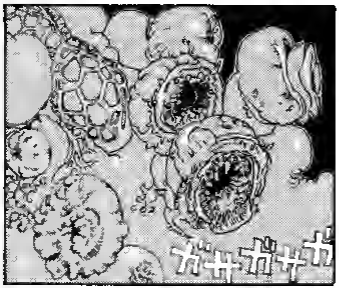
WHAT IS IT, KARL?



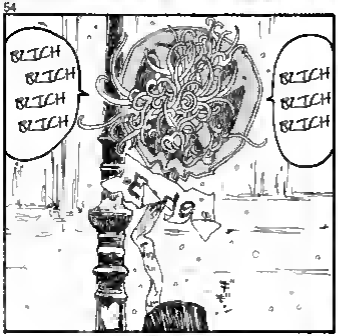

POP
End
KIIII
Ende
WHOA, THERE, WHOA.
SETTLE DOWN.


WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT IS IT?


EARGH!



54


BLICH
BLICH
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blub
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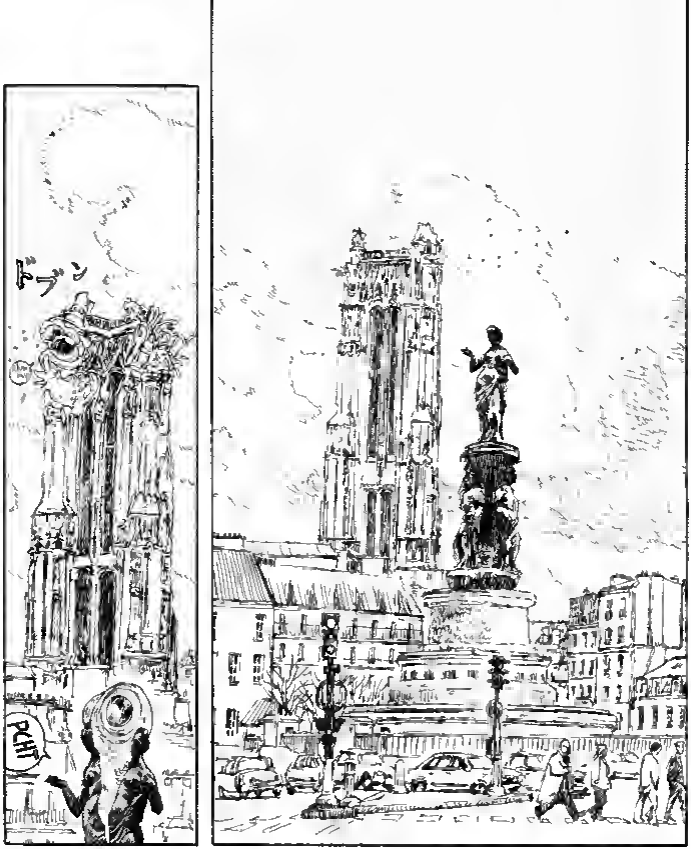
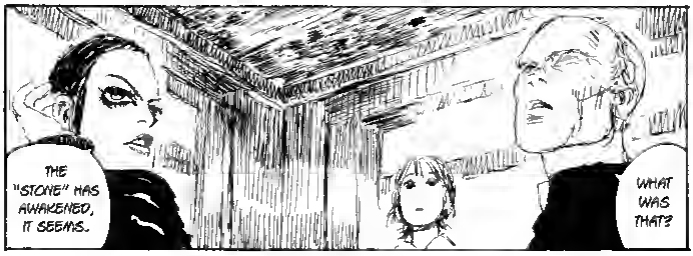
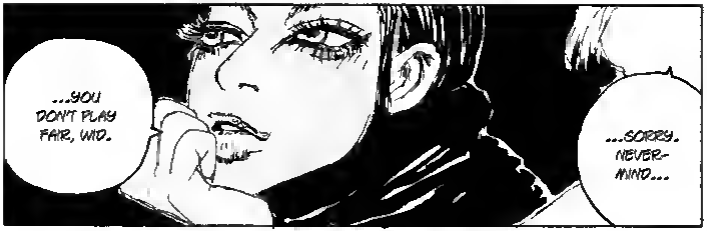
thum



55



I HAVE A FEELING... THERE'LL BE A BIT OF A PANIC.
IT'S LIKE... IT'S BREATHING...
I KNOW. IT'S A SUMMONS, ISN'T IT?
!
ACTUALLY... I HAVE ANOTHER REQUEST.
UHH...
56
...
UM, MIRA!
WHAT IS IT?


...YOU DON'T PLAY FAIR, WID.
...SORRY. NEVER-MIND...

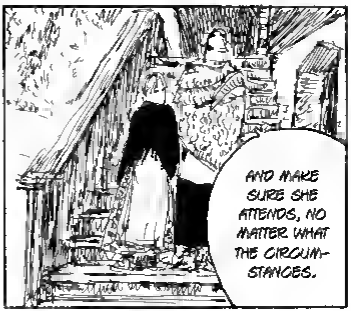
I WOULDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE.
YOU KNEW THAT IF YOU CAME OUT ALL THE WAY TO VISIT ME,

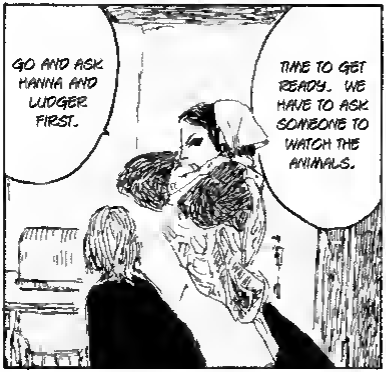
"IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, DON'T DO IT TO BEGIN WITH," AS THEY SAY.
...I'M NOT GOING TO APOLO-GIZE.

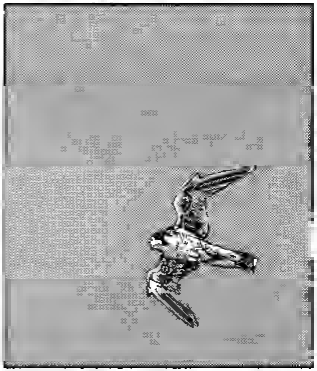
57

!
I JUST HAVE ONE CONDI-TION.
TAKE ALICIA, TOO.

I'LL TAKE OFF NOW...
...I UNDER-STAND.

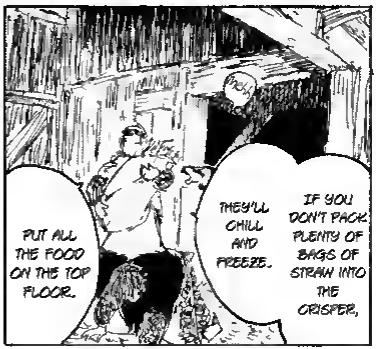

AND MAKE SURE SHE ATTENDS, NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUM-STANCES.


GO AND ASK HANNA AND LUDGER FIRST.
TIME TO GET READY. WE HAVE TO ASK SOMEONE TO WATCH THE ANIMALS.

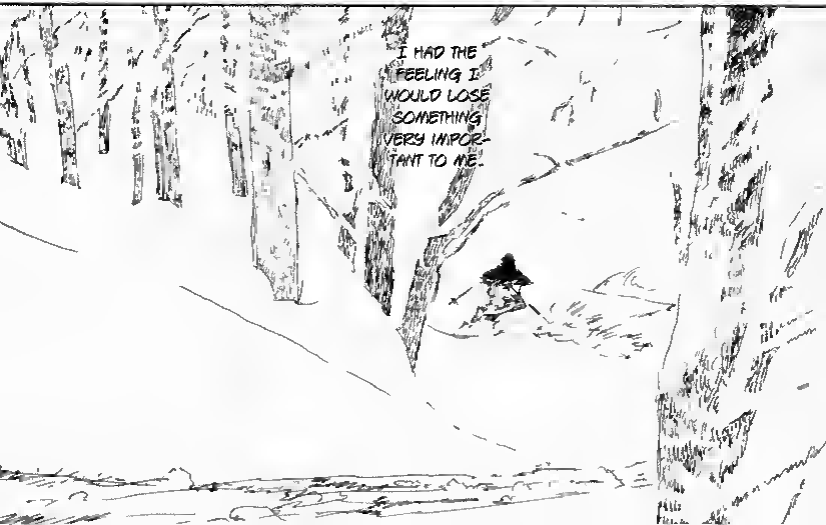


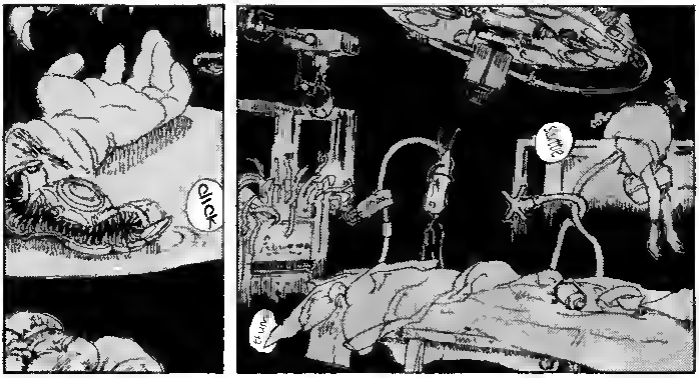
58

CALL IT A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR OUR VISIT TO THE BIG CITY.
PLUS, I'LL BRING OUT SOME SPECIAL CLOTHES.
I WANTED TO TELL MIRA...

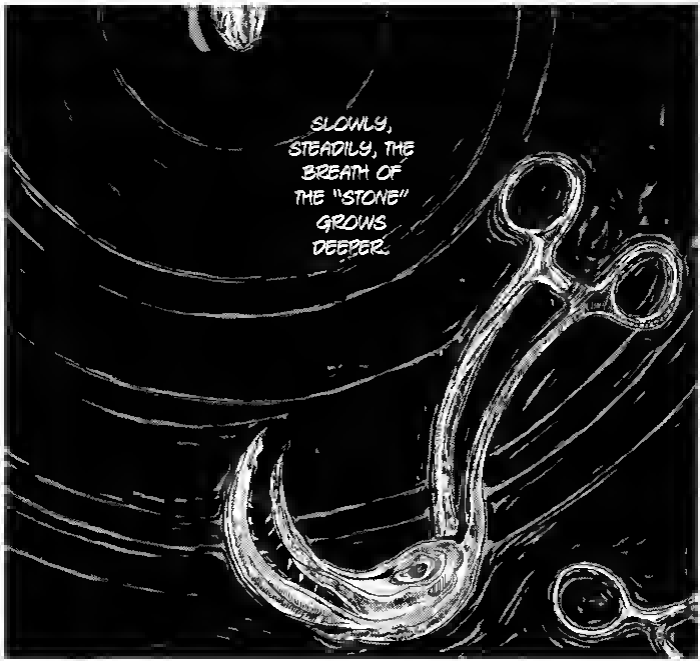

PUT ALL THE FOOD ON THE TOP FLOOR.
THEY'LL CHILL AND FREEZE.
IF YOU DON'T PACK PLENTY OF BAGS OF STRAW INTO THE CRISPER,

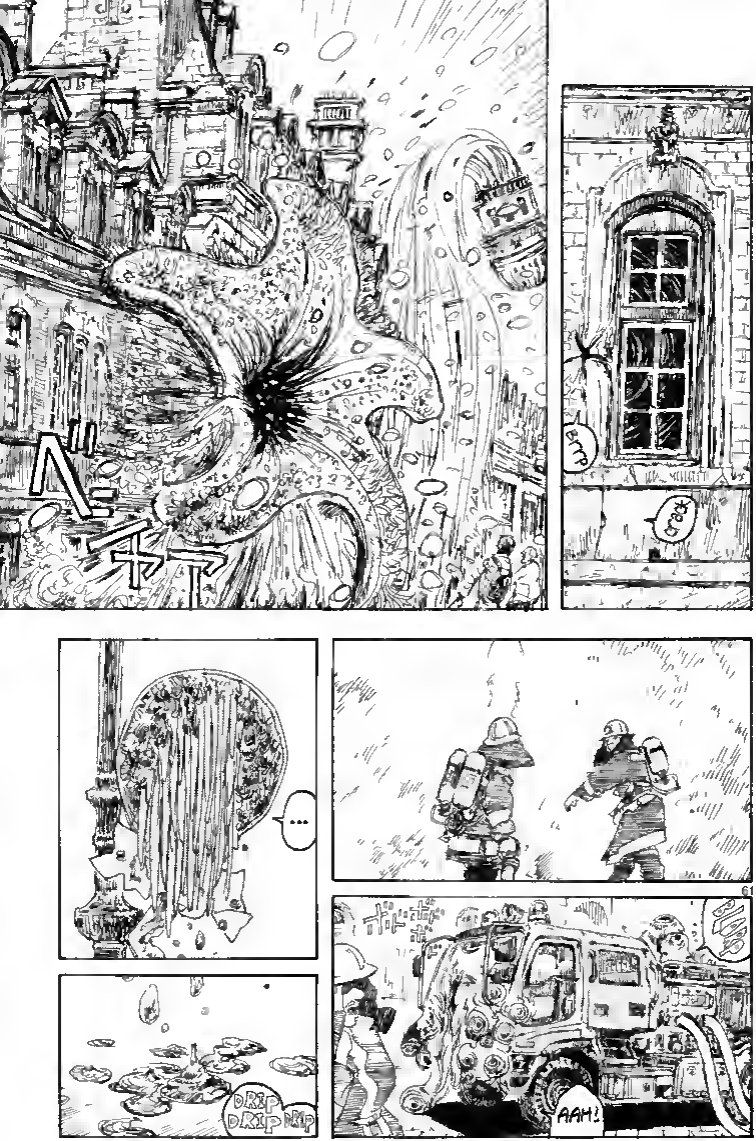
THAT SHE SHOULDN'T GO.
ザアッ
I WAS AFRAID...

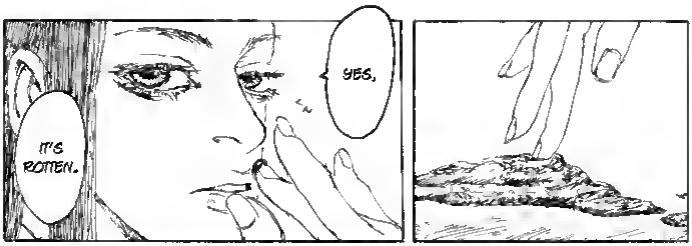

I HAD THE FEELING I WOULD LOSE SOMETHING VERY IMPOR-TANT TO ME.


click
SHHH...
SHHH...

60


SLOWLY, STEADILY, THE BREATH OF THE "STONE" GROWS DEEPER.

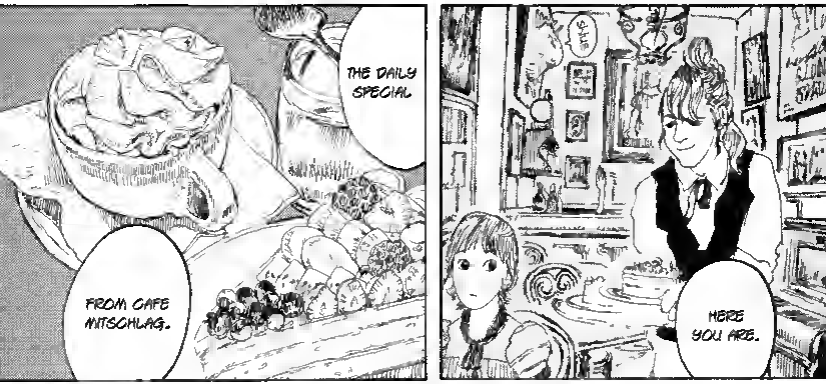

ドカーン!!
CLICK
KRR...
...
DRIP DRIP DRIP
AAH!

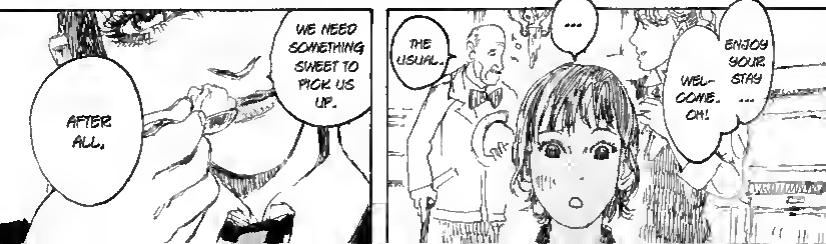

YES,
IT'S ROTTEN.

MOST OF THE BIZARRE, IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES BORN OF THE "STONE"
LACK THE FUNCTIONS TO SUPPORT LIFE.
THE ENTIRE TOWN ITSELF IS TURNING INTO A CORPSE...

THE CORPSE'S ROTTING MAKES HEAT AND GAS.
SEE?
THE MINI-SKIRT WAS A GOOD IDEA.
IT'S WARMER THAN YOU'D THOUGHT IT WOULD BE, ISN'T IT?
I'M GLAD IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, THOUGH.
BUT I JUST CAN'T WEAR THEM.
I LIKE MAKING CUTE CLOTHES LIKE THESE.
63
YOU ARE NOWHERE NEAR AS OLD AS HANNA...
...ALICIA ...
AUH?
BUT MIRA, HANNA SAID IT'S NOT GOOD TO COOL OFF YOUR HIPS.

THEIR TARTS ARE BETTER THAN MINE, AND HANNA'S.
REALLY ?!
OOPS!
BUBBLE
LOVE THIS PLACE.
AHA! I KNEW THEY WOULD BE OPEN.


THE DAILY SPECIAL
FROM CAFE MITSCHLAG.
HERE YOU ARE.


WE NEED SOMETHING SWEET TO PICK US UP.
AFTER ALL,
THE USUAL.
...
ENJOY YOUR STAY
WEL-COME. ...OH!

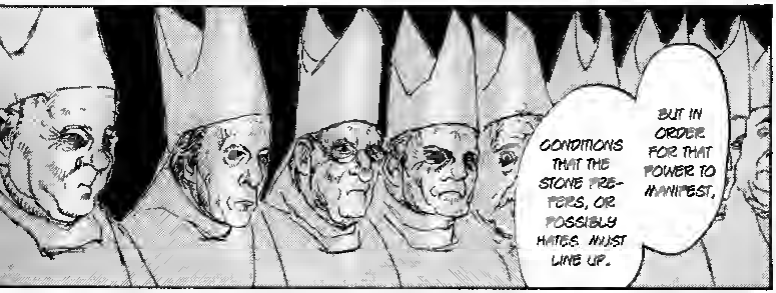
THE PEOPLE WE'RE MEETING
ARE A VERY UN-PLEASANT BUNCH...

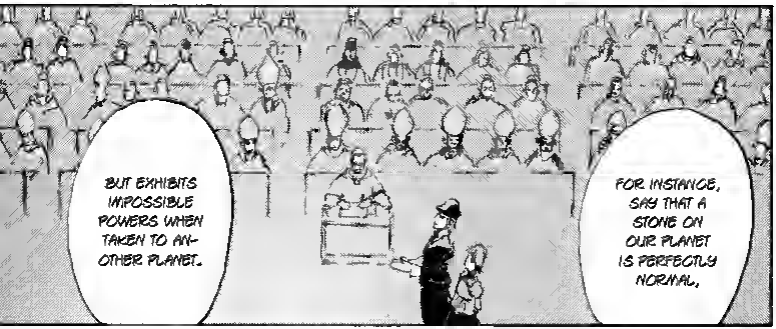
YOU CAN'T EAT FOOD LIKE THAT AT HOME.
WASN'T THAT TART DELI-CIOUS?

YES... BUT MIRA...
WAIT.

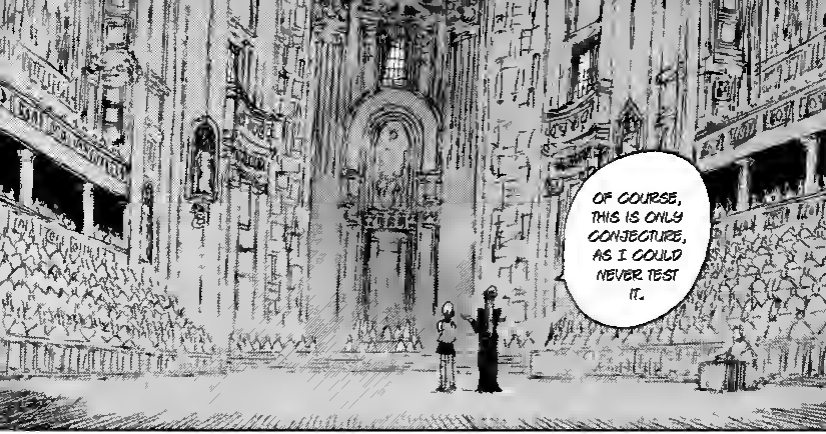
WE HAVE AWAITED YOUR AR-RIVAL...

SOMETIMES, THEY HIDE AN INCREDIBLE POWER.
ALL STONES HAVE THEIR OWN PARTICULAR PROPERTIES.


CONDITIONS THAT THE STONE PREFERS, OR POSSIBLY HATES. MUST LINE UP.
BUT IN ORDER FOR THAT POWER TO MANIFEST,


BUT EXHIBITS IMPOSSIBLE POWERS WHEN TAKEN TO ANOTHER PLANET.
FOR INSTANCE, SAY THAT A STONE ON OUR PLANET IS PERFECTLY NORMAL,

IT WILL ONLY EXHIBIT ITS POWER IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS PLANET.
PETRA GENITALIX IS THE OPPOSITE.


OF COURSE, THIS IS ONLY CONJECTURE, AS I COULD NEVER TEST IT.

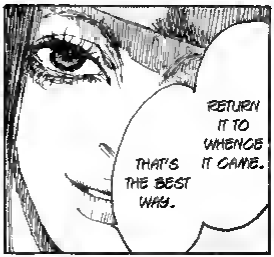
FOR INSTANCE, TO SEAL THE STONE IN A VACUUM, ENCASED IN A BOX.
WE MUST FIND SOME WAY TO CHANGE THESE "CONDITIONS"?
SO, FOR US TO HALT THE DISASTER,

IT COULD BE HUMIDITY, OR GRAVITY,
OR A COMPOSITE OF THINGS. OR SOME SORT OF FEELING, OR ODOR, PERHAPS.
OXYGEN IS NOT NECESSARILY THE CONDITION.

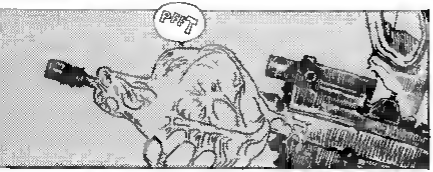
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

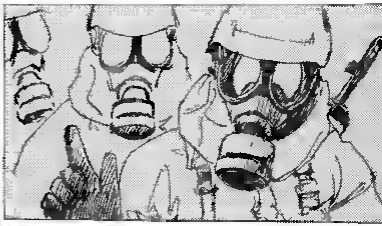
WE'VE ARGUED OVER THAT ENOUGH ALREADY...
THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS! WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

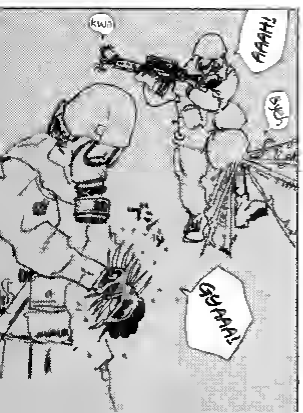
YES. ORBITING 300 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE EARTH.


RETURN IT TO WHENCE IT CAME.
THAT'S THE BEST WAY.

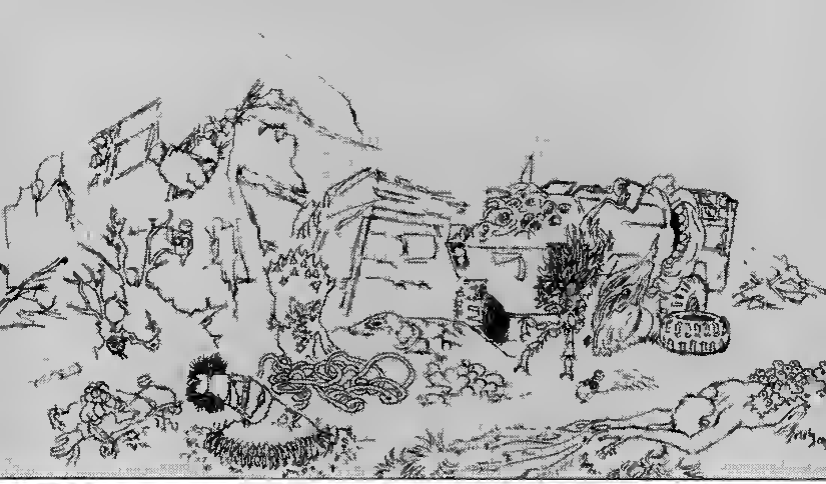
HOW WILL WE DO THAT? NONE OF THE PEOPLE OR VEHICLES WE'VE SENT TO RETRIEVE THE STONE HAVE COME BACK.
CAN'T WE JUST DESTROY IT UTTERLY?

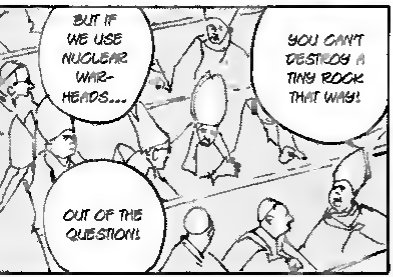

PIFT




KWA
AAAH!
GYAAA!

KO



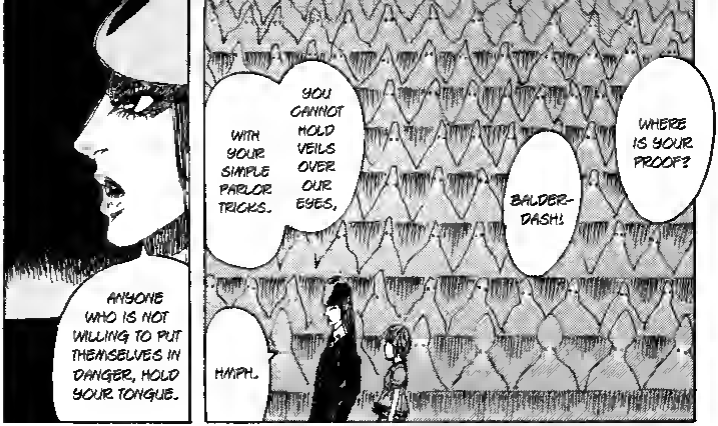

BUT IF WE USE NUCLEAR WAR-HEADS...
YOU CAN'T DESTROY A TINY ROCK THAT WAY!
OUT OF THE QUESTION!

WE'LL ATTACK IT.

YOU WILL SEE HOW IT WORKS ...
WHEN YOU COME INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE "STONE" ITSELF.

THE STONE'S POWER MIGHT RENDER IT USELESS.
WILL THE EXPLOSIVE EVEN DISCHARGE CORRECTLY?

WILL BE ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE!
IN WHICH CASE, PUTTING IT BACK INTO SPACE

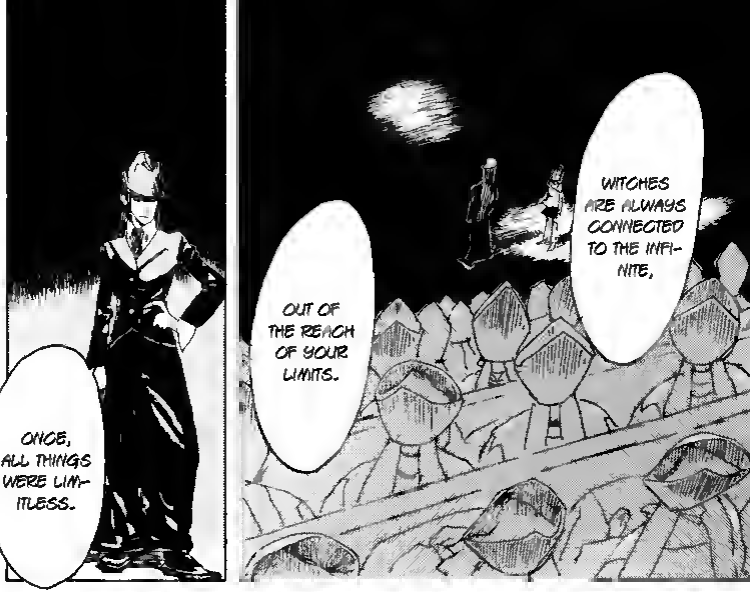

ANYONE WHO IS NOT WILLING TO PUT THEMSELVES IN DANGER, HOLD YOUR TONGUE.
HMPH.
WITH YOUR SIMPLE PARLOR TRICKS.
YOU CANNOT HOLD VEILS OVER OUR EYES.
BALDER-DASH!
WHERE IS YOUR PROOF?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
YOURS IS THE TONGUE THAT SHOULD BE HELD!
NOW THEN...
YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED.

THE WORLD WITH WORDS, AND THE WORLD WITHOUT.
I AM THAT WHICH CONNECTS THE TWO WORLDS.
FROM YOUR PER-SPECTIVE,

OURS IS THE WORLD OF "IN-FINITY."
YOURS IS A WORLD OF "LIMITS."
A TOOL TO CARVE UP THE WORLD INTO A WAY THAT SUITS YOU.
THAT DIVIDES ALL POSSIBILI-TIES INTO DISTINCT TYPES.
YOUR WORDS ARE THE KNIFE

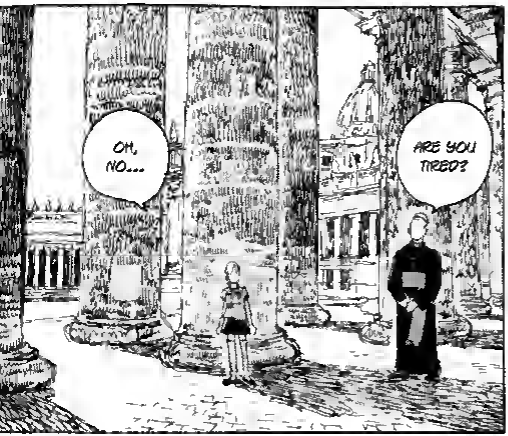
WE ARE THOSE WHO KNOW WORDS, BUT CAN ABANDON THEM WHEN NEEDED.
WE SEE THE WORLD AS IT TRULY IS.

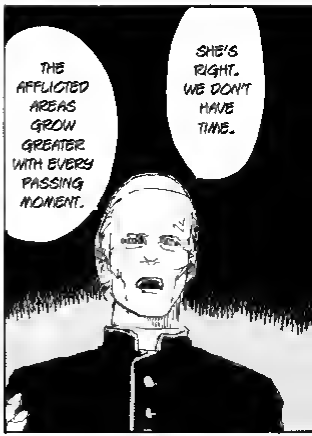

ONCE, ALL THINGS WERE LIMITLESS.
OUT OF THE REACH OF YOUR LIMITS.
WITCHES ARE ALWAYS CONNECTED TO THE INFINITE,

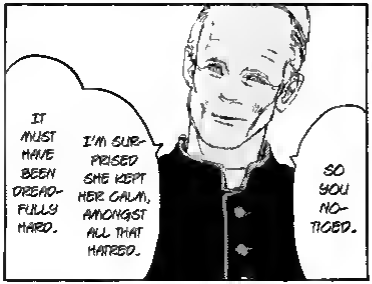
THE SHAMELESS WENCH...!
TERRIFYING...
IT'S HERESY...

WHICH MEANS-!
YOU HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS UP TO US.
BE THAT AS IT MAY.

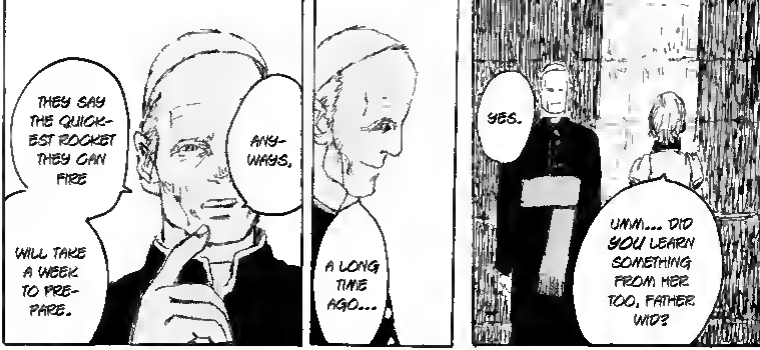
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAS PASSED UP TO THIS POINT... AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE!
...
THIS IS JUST A WASTE OF OUR TIME.

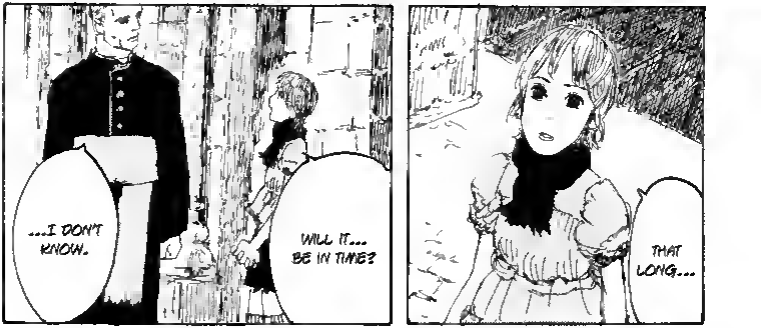

OH, NO...
ARE YOU TIRED?

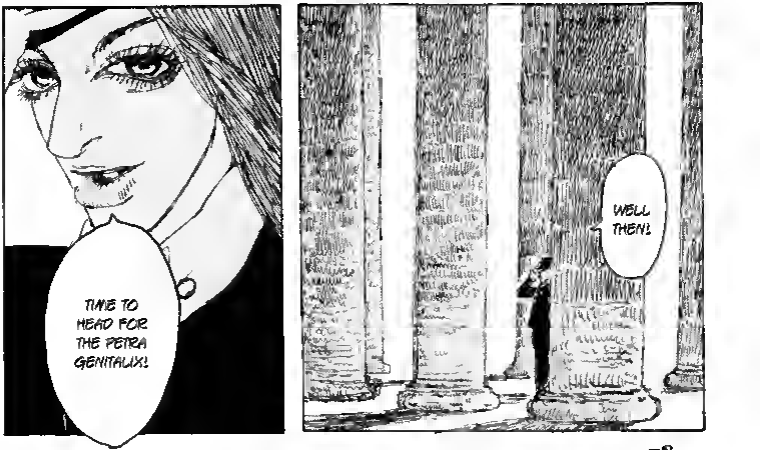

THE AFFLICTED AREAS GROW GREATER WITH EVERY PASSING MOMENT.
SHE'S RIGHT. WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

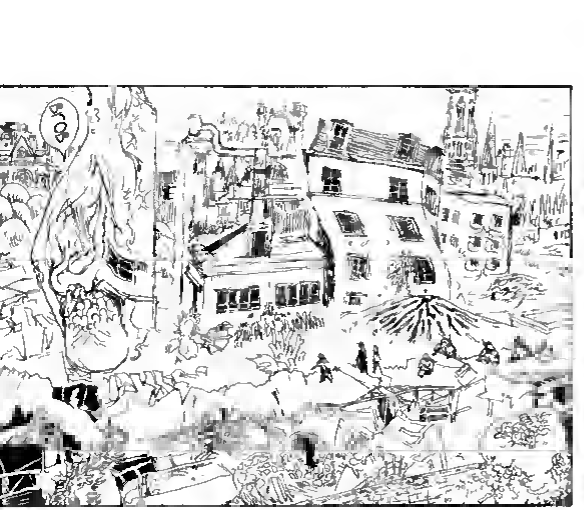

IT MUST HAVE BEEN DREADFULLY HARD.
I'M SURPRISED SHE KEPT HER CALM, AMONGST ALL THAT HATRED.
SO YOU NOTICED.

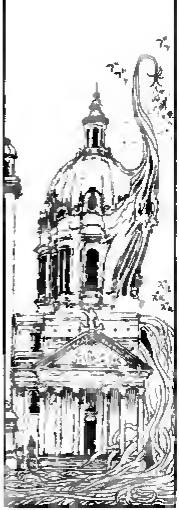
BUT REALLY TO ME, INSTEAD...
I THINK THAT EARLIER, MIRA WASN'T SPEAKING SO MUCH TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE,


THEY SAY THE QUICKEST ROCKET THEY CAN FIRE
WILL TAKE A WEEK TO PREPARE.
ANYWAYS,
A LONG TIME AGO...
YES.
UMM... DID YOU LEARN SOMETHING FROM HER TOO, FATHER WID?


...I DON'T KNOW.
WILL IT... BE IN TIME?
THAT LONG...

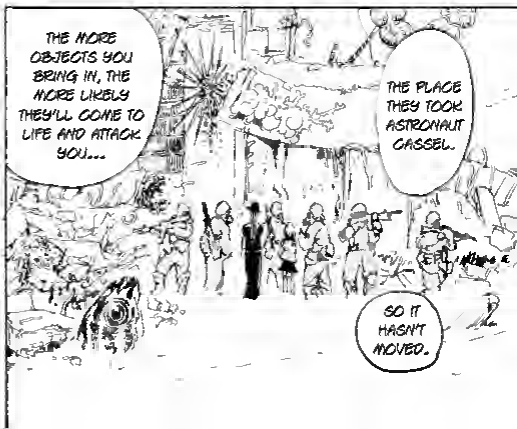

TIME TO HEAD FOR THE PETRA GENITALIX!
WELL THEN!


SIGH



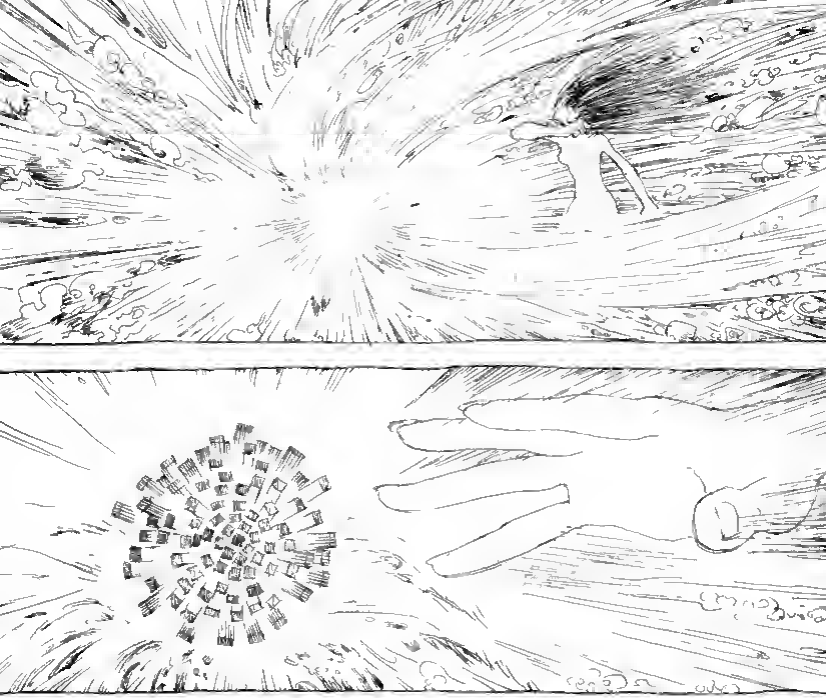
WE THINK IT'S A MEDICAL CENTER.
THAT'S IT, INSIDE THERE.
YES...
I CAN FEEL IT.

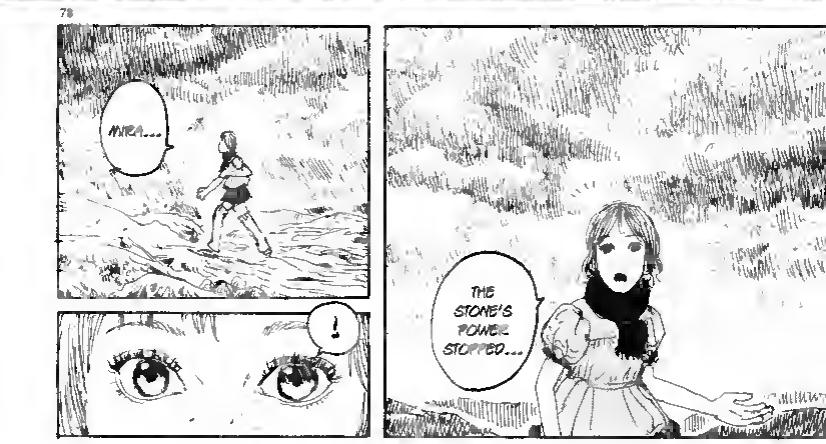
STEP BACK, ALL OF YOU.
THE TWO OF US WILL GO IN.


THE MORE OBJECTS YOU BRING IN, THE MORE LIKELY THEY'LL COME TO LIFE AND ATTACK YOU...
THE PLACE THEY TOOK ASTRONAUT CASSEL.
SO IT HASN'T MOVED.

IS LIKE A RACE THROUGH THE SEA OF DEATH WE WALK THROUGH.
MAYBE THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE
IS HIGH ENOUGH HERE TO CRUSH YOU.
IT'S NOT FROM THE STENCH OF DECAY.
THE DENSITY OF THE STONE'S POWER.
MY HEAD HURTS....
MIRAI
I'LL GO ALONE.
WAIT HERE.

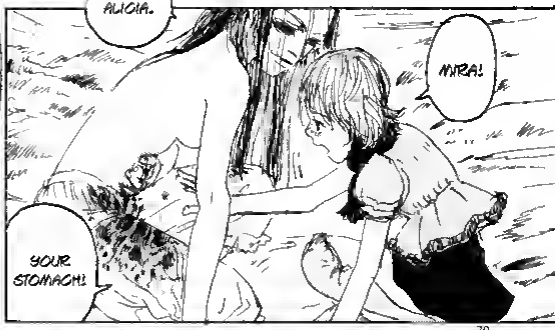
FOUND IT...




MIRA....
!
THE STONE'S POWER STOPPED...

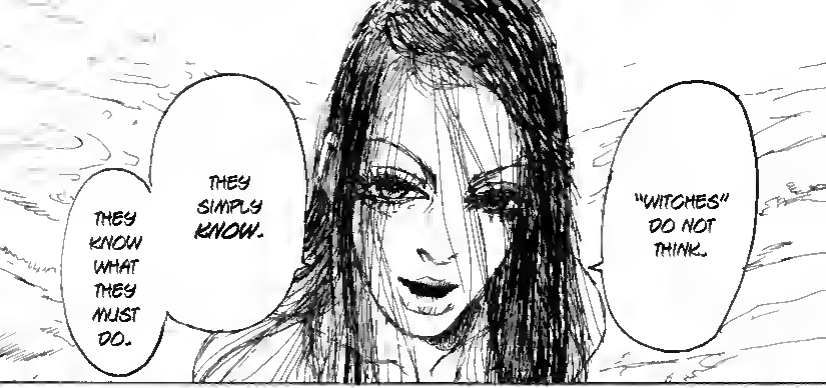
MIRA!!

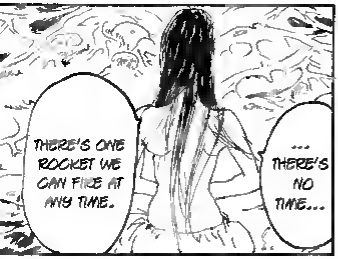
DID YOU... EAT THE STONE INSIDE?

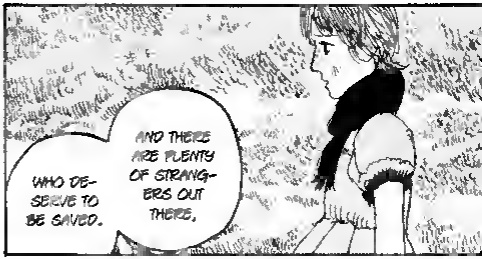

ALICIA.
MIRA!
YOUR STOMACH!

THE STONE'S POWER WAS SILENT WHILE IT WAS INSIDE CASSEL'S BODY.
WHY?!

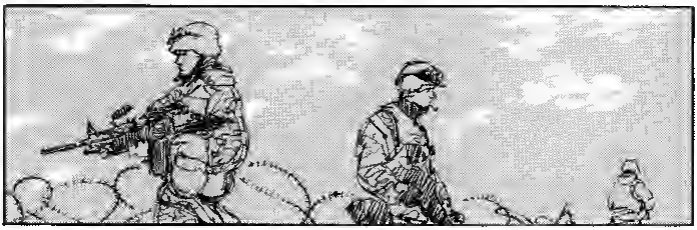
I GUESS IT MEANS ONLY THE POWER OF LIFE
CAN SEAL THE POWER OF LIFE.
SO WE HAVE TO MOVE IT WHILE MY LIFE STILL LASTS.
WHY...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT THOSE PEOPLE SAY?!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS...
THIS DISASTER BEFALLS ALL HUMANITY EQUALLY.
IT WON'T SPARE HANNA OR LUDGER OR YOU, JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT IT TO.
WOULD YOU LOVE A PERSON WHO ONLY SAYS "TOO BAD," WHEN THOSE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU ARE IN TROUBLE?
BUT, WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU...? IT'S NOT FAIR...
ALICIA.


"WITCHES" DO NOT THINK.
THEY SIMPLY KNOW.
THEY KNOW WHAT THEY MUST DO.

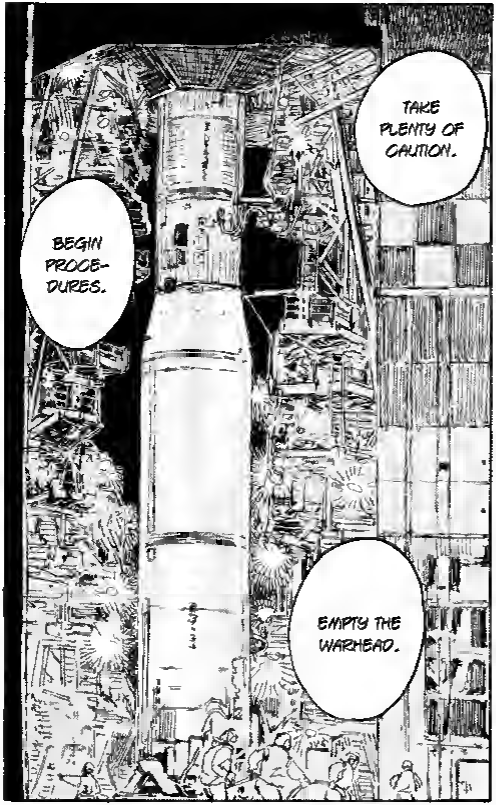

THERE'S ONE ROCKET WE CAN FIRE AT ANY TIME.
... THERE'S NO TIME...

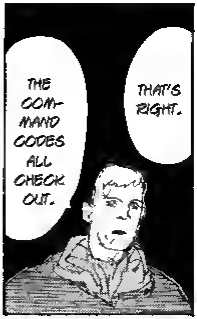

AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF STRANGERS OUT THERE,
WHO DESERVE TO BE SAVED.

I NEED YOU... TO TAKE ME TO IT.



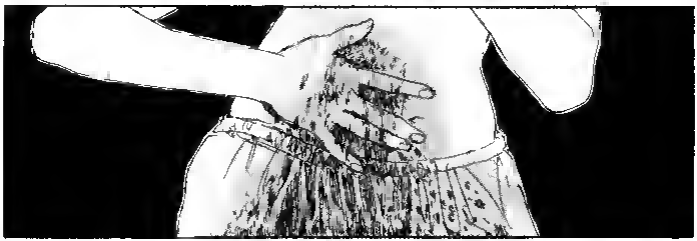
82

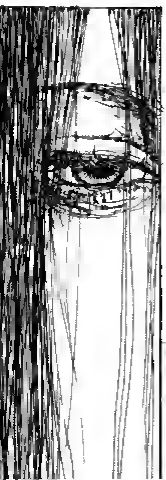

BEGIN PROCE-DURES.
TAKE PLENTY OF CAUTION.
EMPTY THE WARHEAD.


THAT'S RIGHT.
THE COM-MAND CODES ALL CHECK OUT.

ALL RIGHT THEN. SINCE WE'RE SHORT ON TIME,
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK WITH THE PROPEL-LANT ALL ONBOARD.

THAT'S RIGHT.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO RIDE IN HERE.
83
ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO MAKE IT IN TIME?!
IT TAKES TOO MUCH TIME TO PREPARE A SHUTTLE OR SPACE PLANE...
IT'S TRUE THAT WE CAN FIRE AN ICBM AT ANY TIME...
BUT WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW TO GET HER BACK ALIVE...
IT HURTS TO ADMIT... BUT THERE ARE NO OTHER OPTIONS.
THIS IS MIKA'S DECISION.
!
THEY SAID TO STAY BACK. IT'S DANGEROUS...
OH MY GOD...
...
HERE SHE COMES!

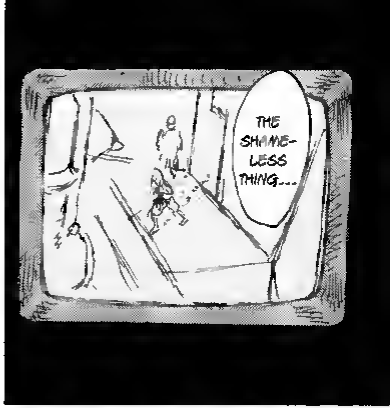




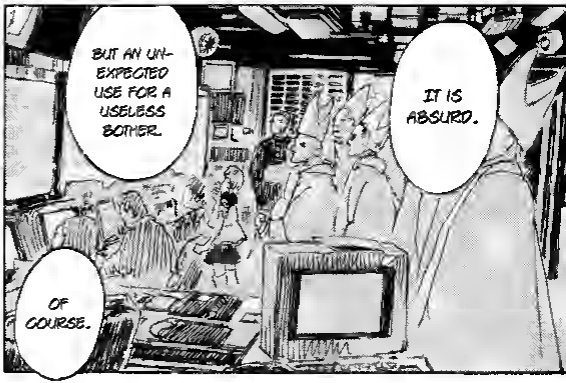
WITCH...

SO THAT'S THE WITCH ...

SO WE FIRE AN ICBM, NOT LOADED WITH A NUCLEAR WARHEAD, BUT A NUDE WITCH.
HMM.


THE SHAMELESS THING...

THEIR VERY EXISTENCE IS PROFANE.
THE REASON WE LEAVE THEM ALIVE
IS FOR MOMENTS LIKE THIS.

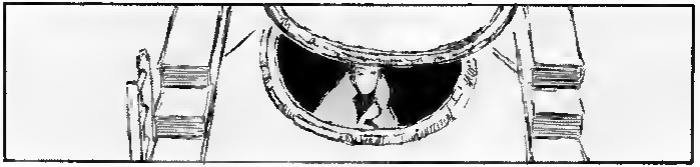

BUT AN UNEXPECTED USE FOR A USELESS BOTHER.
IT IS ABSURD.
OF COURSE.

MIRA!

THIS IS ONLY SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT. THERE'S NO SOUND.
CAN'T I TALK TO HER?!

UMM...
THIS IS FOR YOU ...
...THANK YOU.
M-HEY, DON'T JUMP IN HERE!
REATTACH THE WAR-HEAD. QUICKLY!

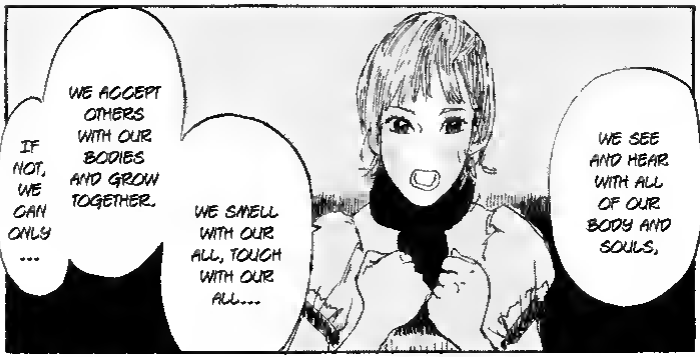
BUT I STILL LOVE YOURS THE MOST!
NYRA!
THE TARTS FROM THAT RESTAURANT WERE VERY GOOD.
IT'S CLOSING ON HER...
AH...



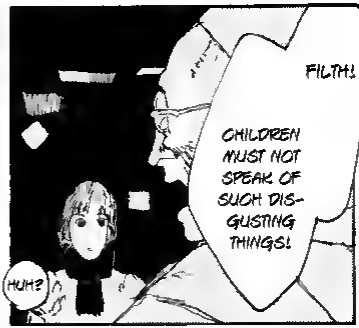
DON'T SEND MIRA AWAY WITH A LIE!

GOD BLESS...
STOP IT!

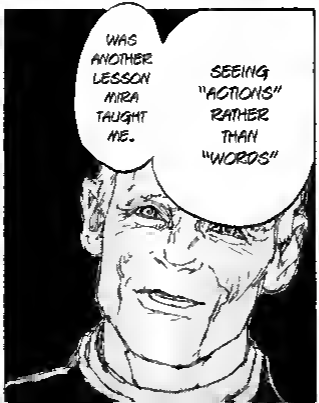
MIRA'S WORDS WERE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL...
YOUR WORDS ARE SOILED AND SORROWFUL.
IT WOULD BE A LIE, EVEN IF HIS WORDS WERE CORRECT.
IF SOMEONE WHO NEVER SAW THE SKY SAID "THE CLEAR SKY IS BLUE,"


WE SEE AND HEAR WITH ALL OF OUR BODY AND SOULS.
WE SMELL WITH OUR ALL, TOUCH WITH OUR ALL....
WE ACCEPT OTHERS WITH OUR BODIES AND GROW TOGETHER.
IF NOT, WE CAN ONLY ...

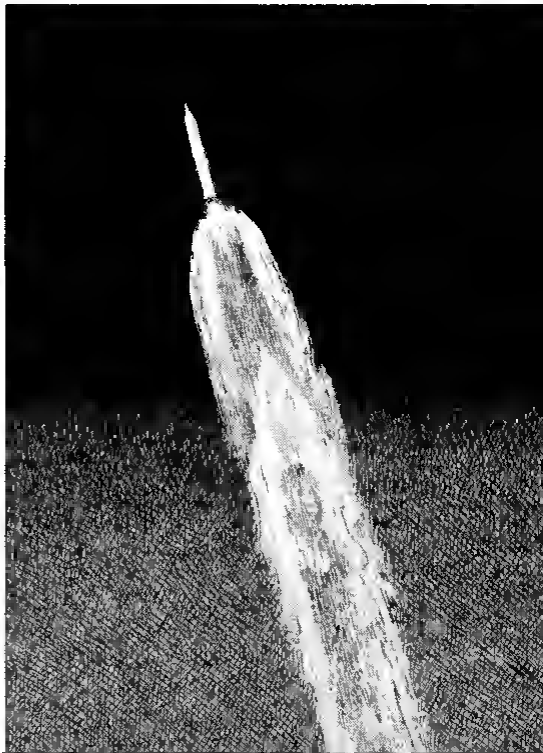
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!
CHILD OR NOT, A WITCH IS A WITCH.

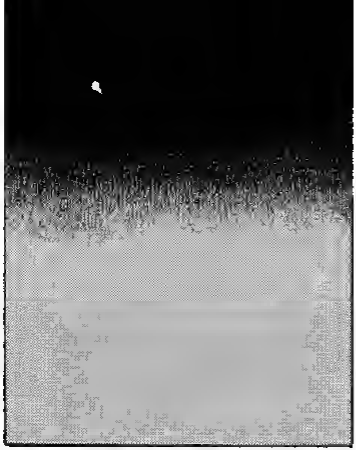

HUH?
CHILDREN MUST NOT SPEAK OF SUCH DISGUSTING THINGS!
FILTH!

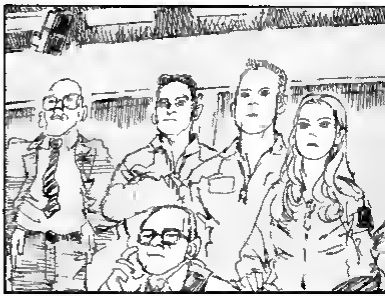
MIRA...

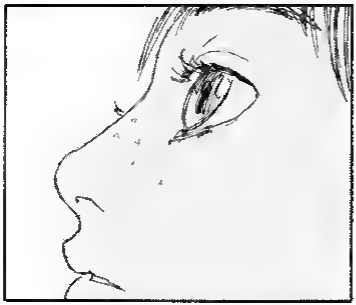

WAS ANOTHER LESSON MIRA TAUGHT ME.
SEEING "ACTIONS" RATHER THAN "WORDS"

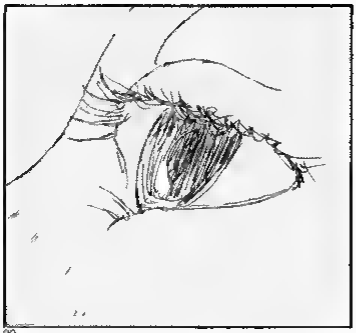
THEY ARE THE ONES WHO ARE IRREPARABLY SOILED.

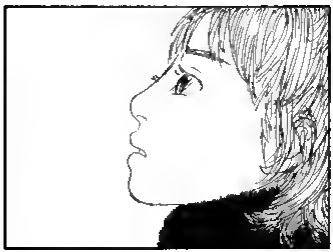










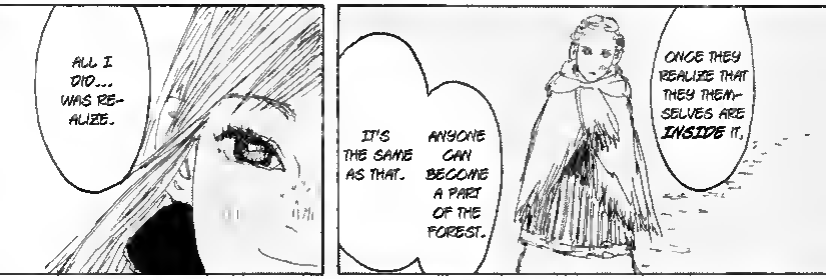


December
10 years later

ガラン
ガラン
ガラン

WHAT IS IT, TASHA?
ALICIA?
THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD VISIT DURING THE TWELVE NIGHTS...
YES... YOU SAW THEM...
I JUST SAW... SOMEONE'S SHADOW IN THE CHAIR...
THE "GREAT WITCH"?
ALICIA, WHY DO THEY CALL YOU
THOSE ARE PEOPLE... VERY DEAR TO ME...

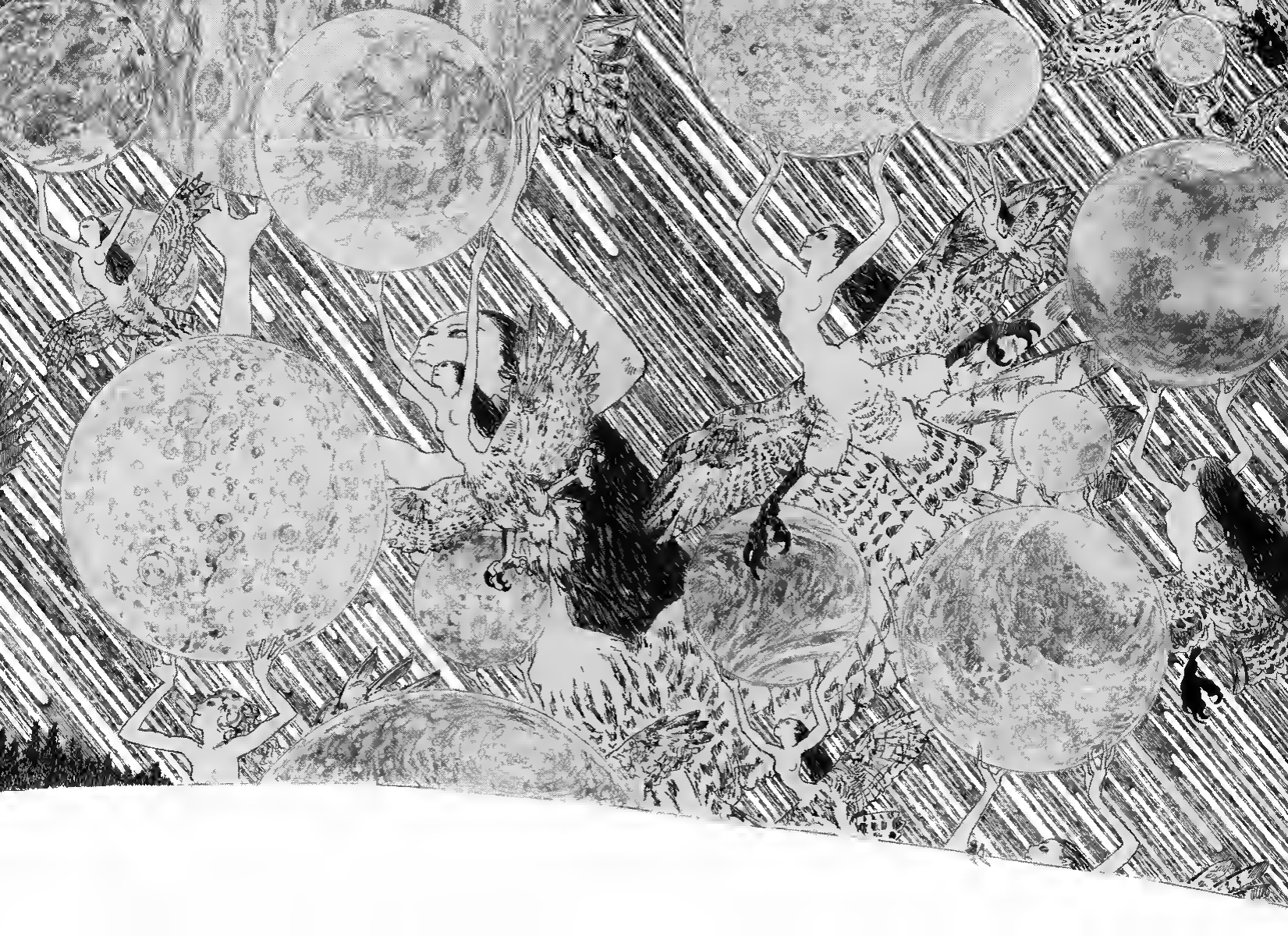
WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE "FOREST," WE DON'T MEAN JUST THE TREES THAT ARE THERE,
OF A GREAT, VAST "POWER," AND AN ENDLESS "FLOW" FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE.
THE "GREAT WITCH" THAT WE KNOW IS THE NICK-NAME
CREATED WITH LIGHT AND PLENTY OF TIME.
BUT ALL OF THE LIFE IN THEM,
I AM NOTHING BUT A SINGLE PART OF IT.


ALL I DID... WAS RE-ALIZE.
IT'S THE SAME AS THAT.
ANYONE CAN BECOME A PART OF THE FOREST.
ONCE THEY REALIZE THAT THEY THEM-SELVES ARE INSIDE IT,

I'M SURE YOU WILL SEE IT TOO.

WE ARE ALL OF US...

PART OF THEIR FAMILY.



PETRA GENITALIX - The End

魔女
WITCHES
第2集
五十嵐大介

魔女
WITCHES
第2集
五十嵐大介

IKKI COMIX
小学館
IKKI 462

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ISBN4-09-188462-8
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1929979006297
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雑誌 45904-62 小学館

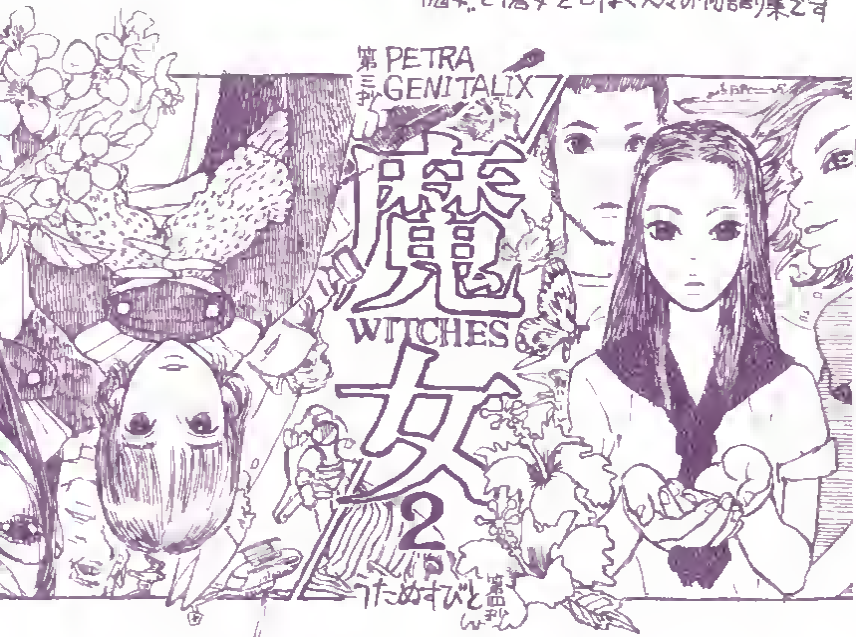
An accident in outer space brings fate to the "Great *Witches*" *Mira* and *Alicia*, living in the mountains of Northern Europe (Petra Genitalia). A teenage girl, *Hinata*, takes a ship south to escape her hollow everyday life, and spends time with a mysterious woman named *Chitaro* (Thief of Songs). When a *girl* meets a *miracle*, a *witch* dwells in the depths of her eyes. The imaginative and long-awaited 2nd volume of *Illusory Tales*.

魔女
WITCHES
第2集
五十嵐大介

「魔女」第2集発売記念

特別小冊子

世界の様々な場所での
"魔女"と魔女をとりまく人々の物語集です



五十嵐大介

小田扉
賓客　雁須磨子
浅野いにお

賓客画廊 3

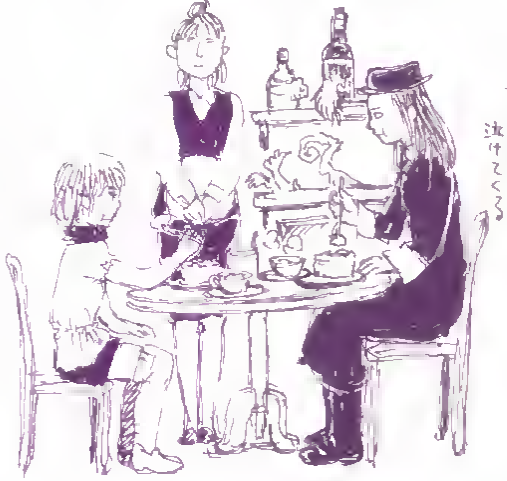
浅野いにお

自然と文明のギャップというか、テクノロジーに対する異和感というか　そんなことを感じてる僕にとって五十嵐先生の漫画はまさにこれだ！と感じる作品でした。偶然と必然のカンケイも素敵すぎます。

浅野いにお

月刊IKKI
「魔女」シリーズ連載中!!

発行：小学館

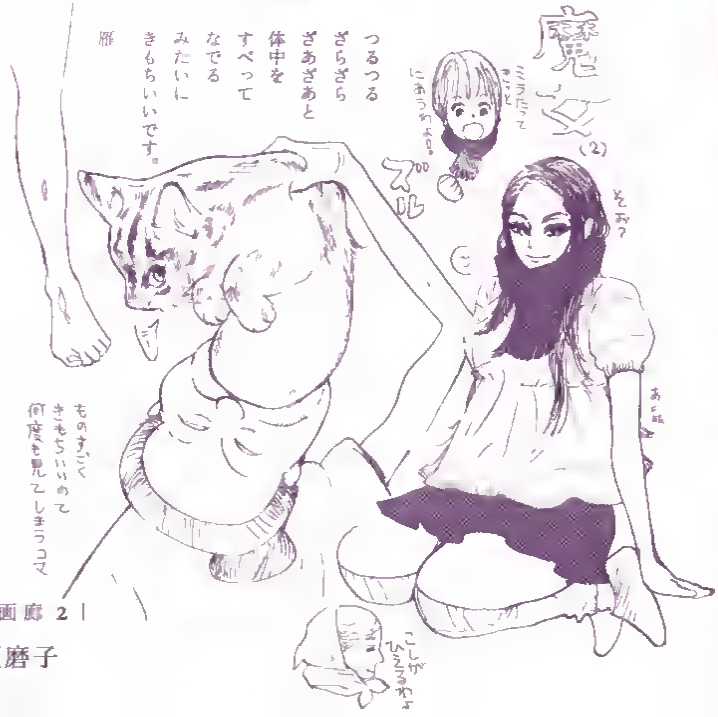


ミラがすてきで泣けてくる

五十嵐氏の漫画は漫画で下着で就職する。

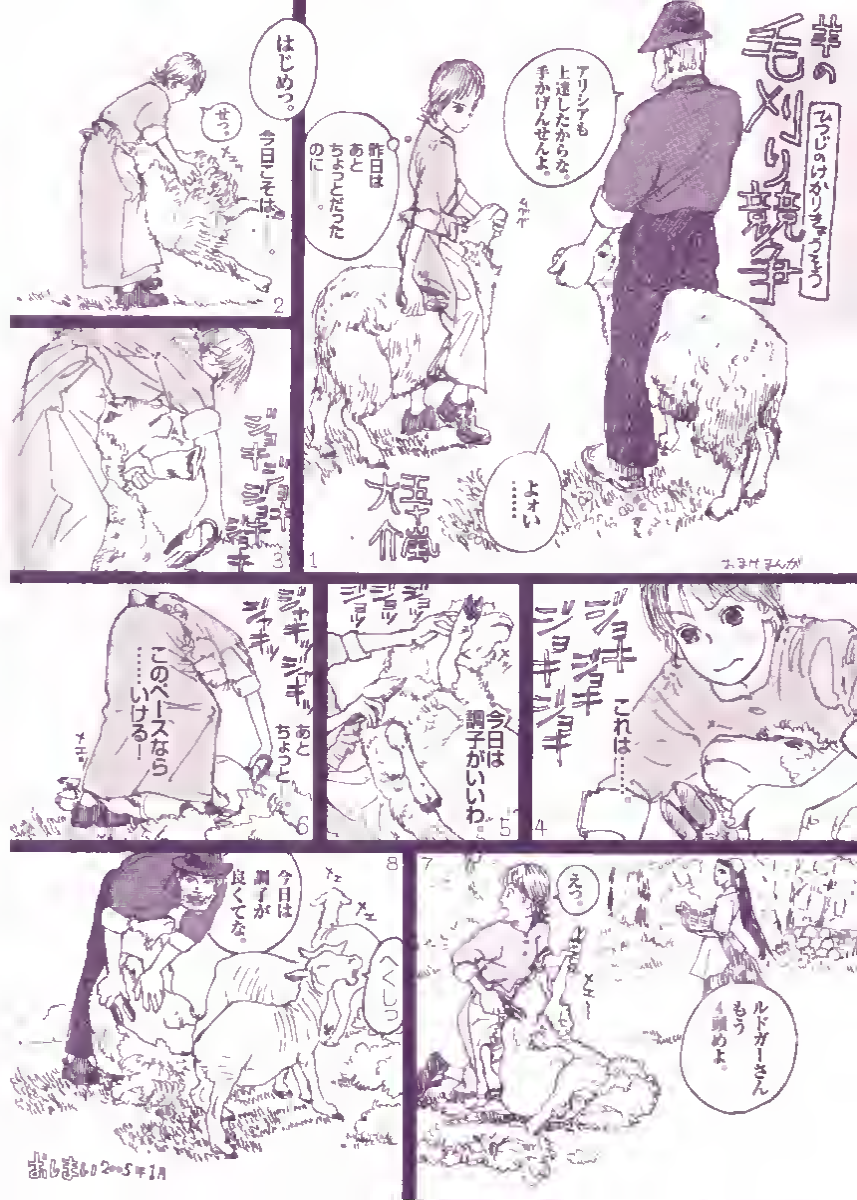
| 賓客画廊 1 |

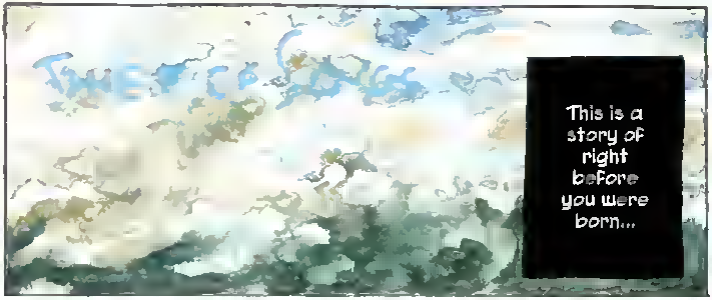
小田扉

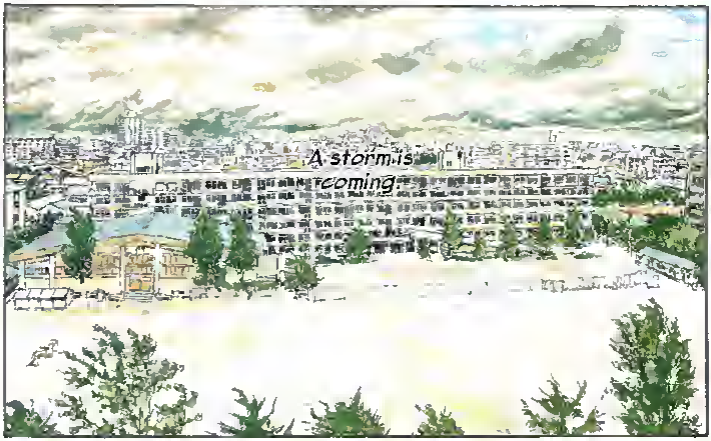


| 賓客画廊 2 |

雁須磨子




This is a story of right before you were born...


A storm is coming.

Straight at me...

Coming for me.

This is a story of right before you were born...

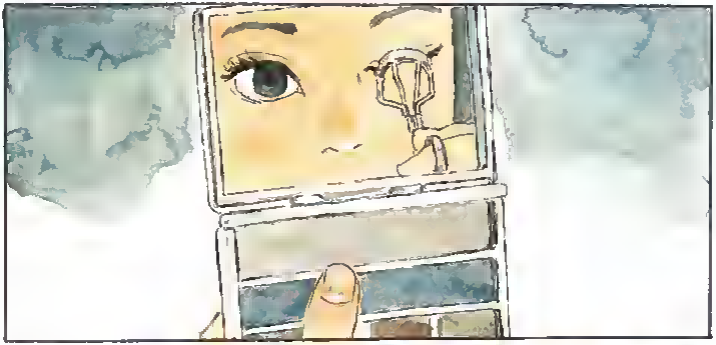
A storm is coming...

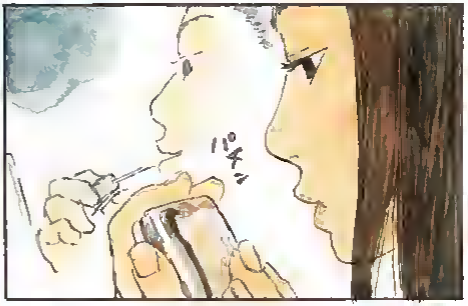
Straight at me...

Coming for me.

Thief of Songs

Mangascreener.com
translation: Stephen Paul
scans: pnyxtr
edits: petr





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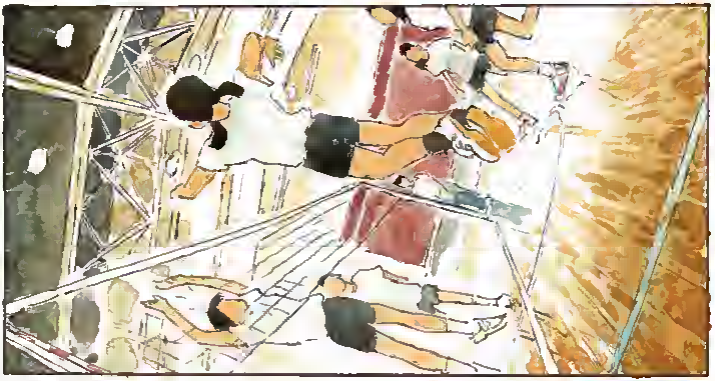
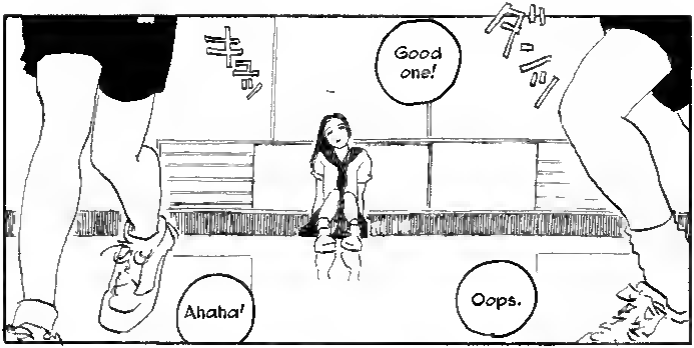
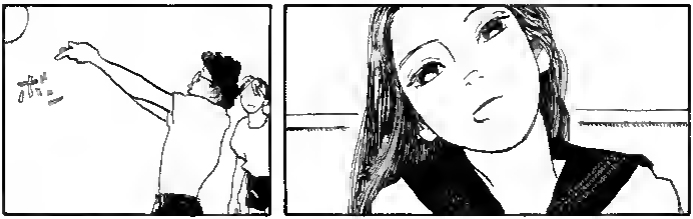
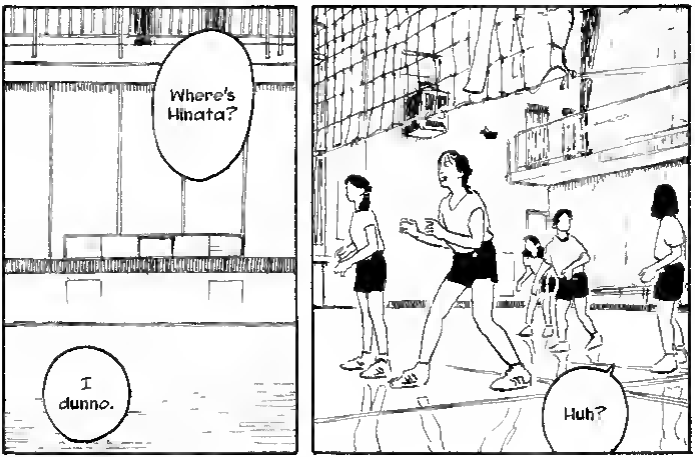


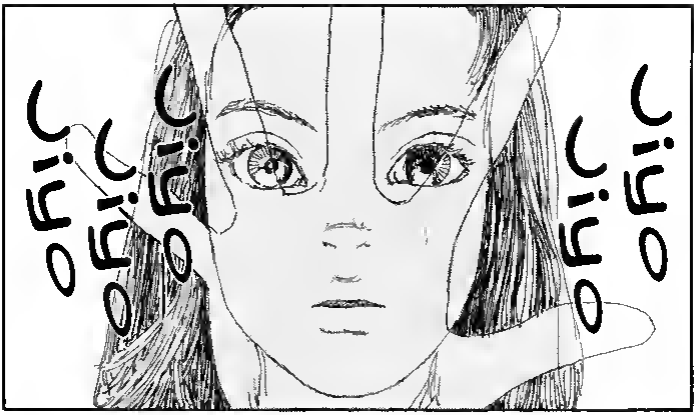
キュッ
パチン


Good one!
Ahaha!
Oops.



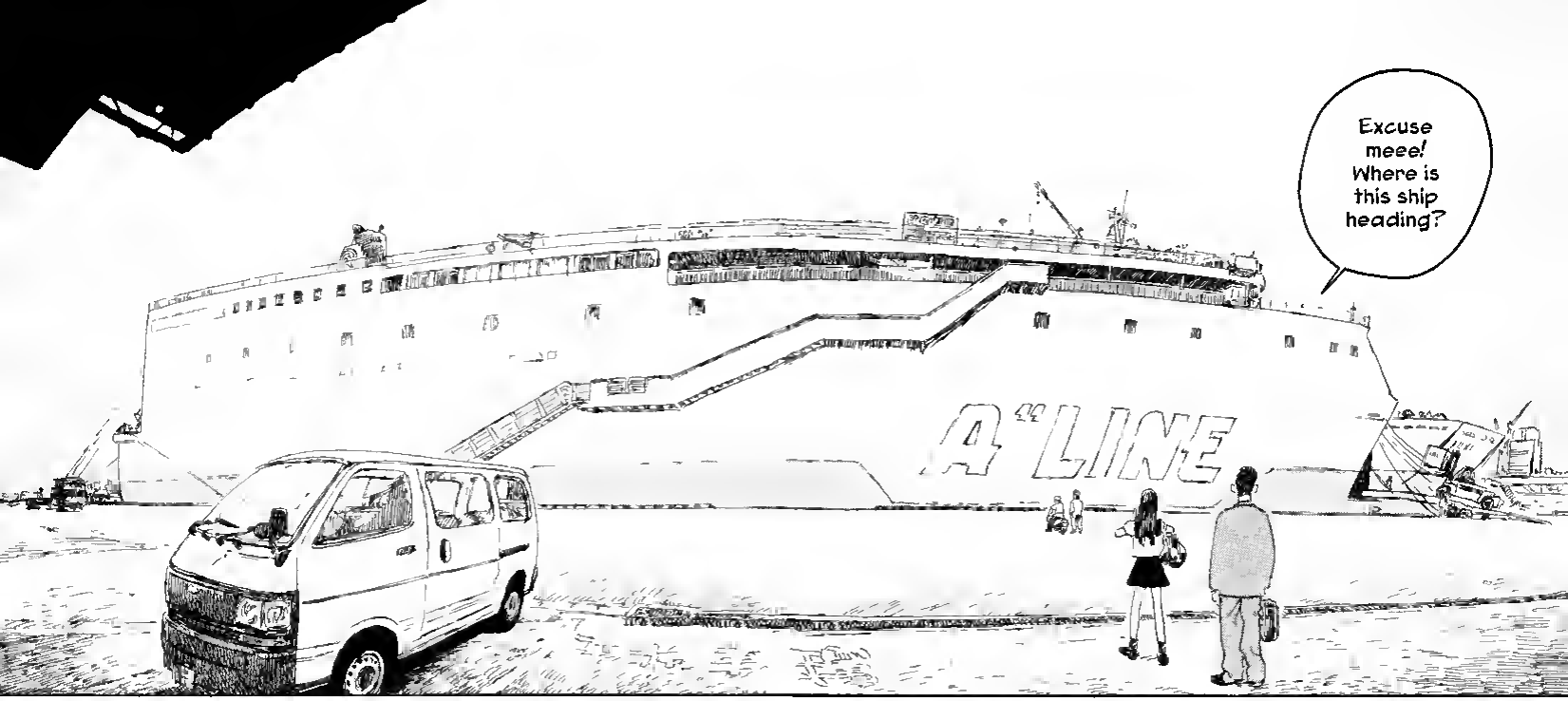

Where's Hinata?
I dunno.
Huh?

ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
ジリリ
Deposit Money
2nd Year
Class 3, Student 4
Ibuki Aihara
5/21
7/21
7/21


いやいやいやい

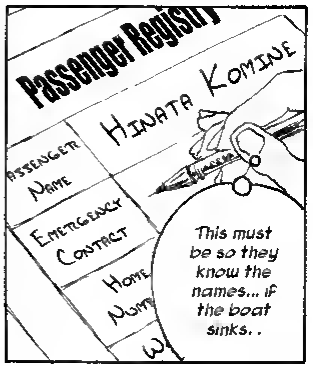
Has anyone seen the stack of envelopes that was right here?
It's the deposit for the field trip.
Hey Yuji, wanna go on a vacation?
We don't have the money.
..now where'd you get that?
Presenting the money.

Really?
It's so rare that YOU ever want to do anything.
So, what's with the vacation idea?
So she took all her rings and stuff and sold 'em for cash, so she could divvy them up while she was alive. Does that make sense?
See, Grandma didn't want there to be a lot of fighting over her inheritance when she died, and-
Oh, on my mom's side, I mean
I don't believe a word of it, but whatever
On your mom's side?
...so?
Where are we going?
Works for me
I dunno... I just felt like it...
...I know.


Excuse meee! Where is this ship heading?
A"LINE

10

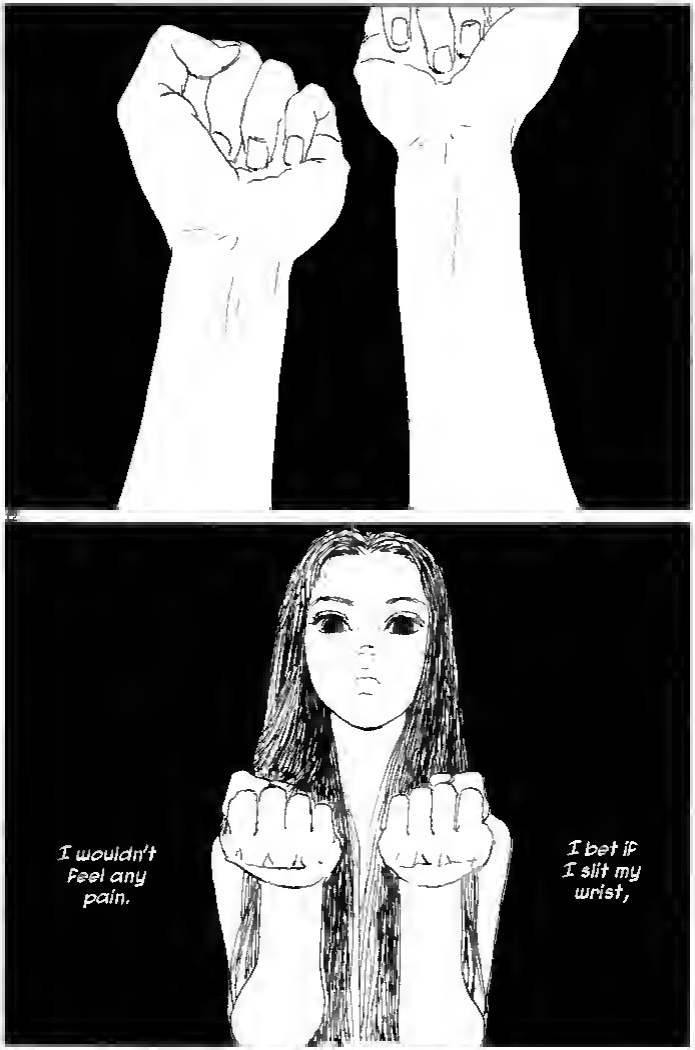
船客案内
Destination arrival time will depend on the weather.
Yes.
No reservations means you'll be in a second class cabin. Is that all right?

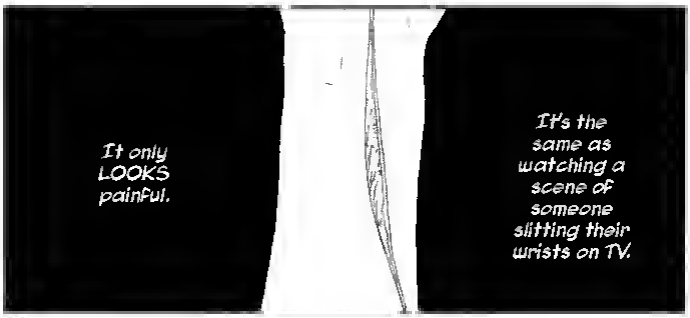

Passenger Registry
HINATA KOMINE
Passenger Name
Emergency Contact
Home Num
This must be so they know the names... if the boat sinks..

11

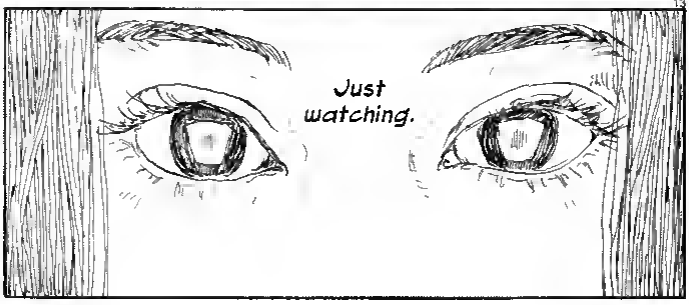
Second class cabin is a nice big room, separated for man and woman.
カン カン カン
Wow, this is really exciting, isn't it?

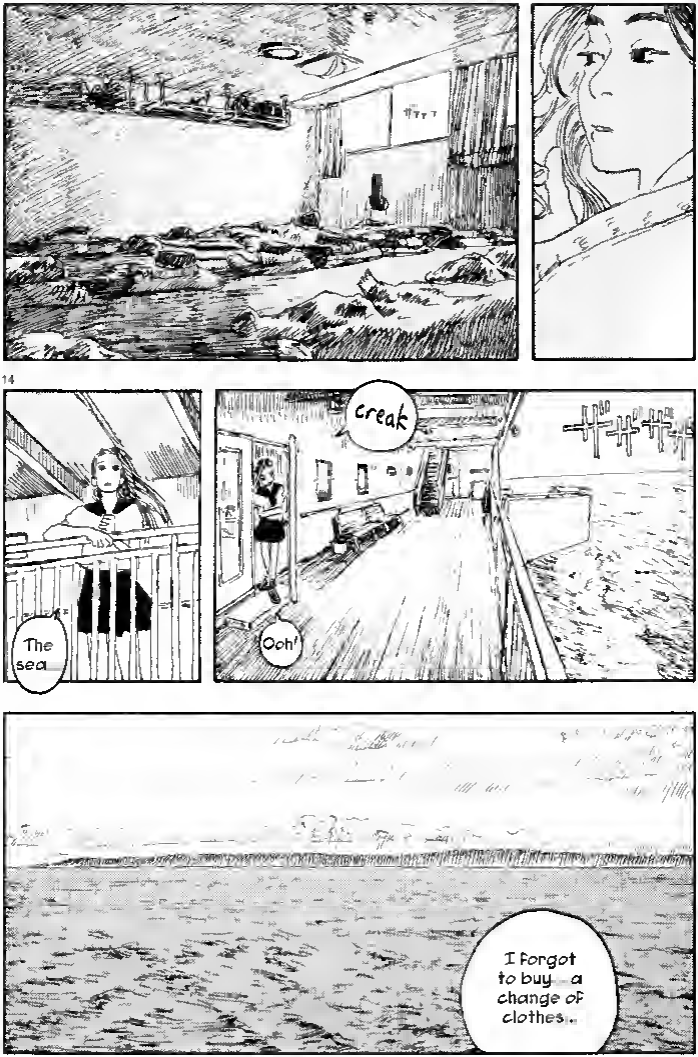
It was 20,500 yen per person.

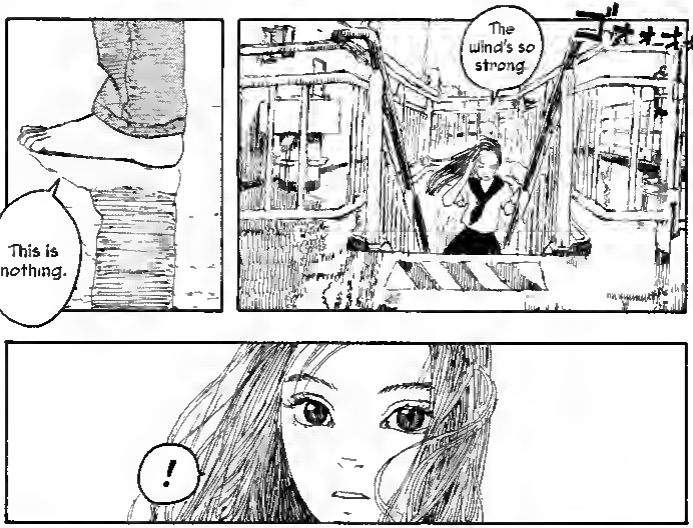

I bet if I slit my wrist,
I wouldn't feel any pain.


It only LOOKS painful.
It's the same as watching a scene of someone slitting their wrists on TV.

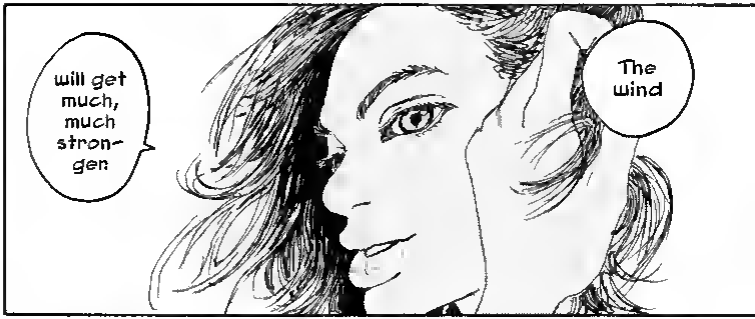
A show called "My Everyday Life" in a room far, far away.
I'm just watching a TV show.

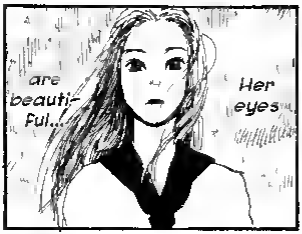

Just watching.


14
creak
Ooh!
The sea
I forgot to buy a change of clothes...

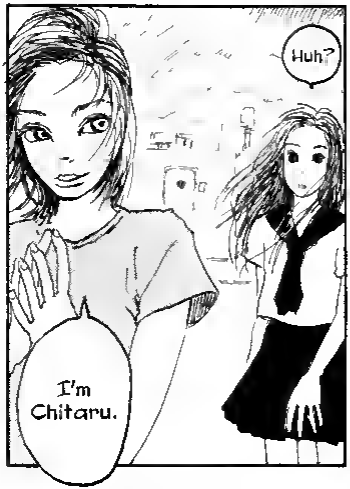

This is nothing.
The wind's so strong.
!

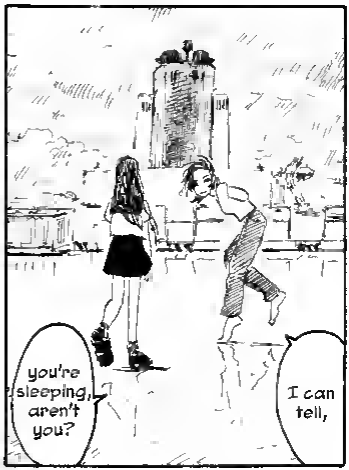
When we head out to sea, the ship'll REALLY pick up steam.
THEN you'll feel it.


The wind
will get much, much stronger


Her eyes are beautiful...

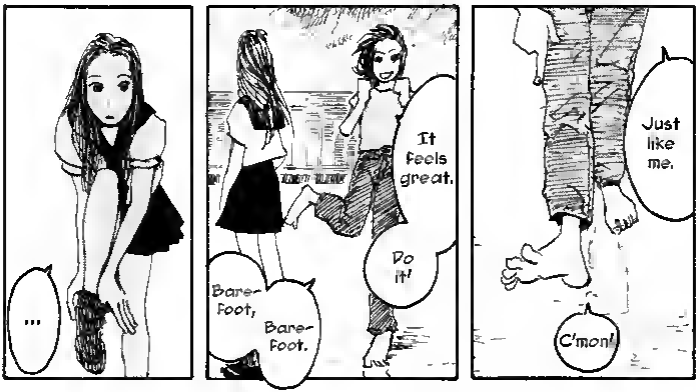
16

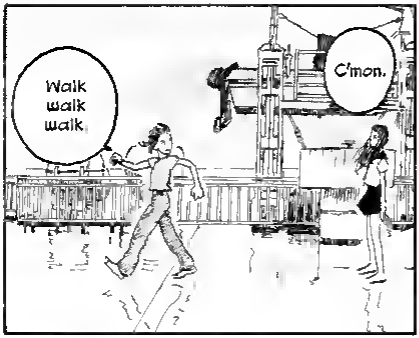

Huh?
I'm Chitaru.

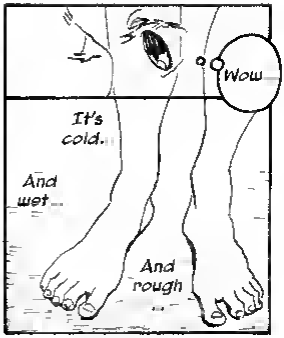

you're sleeping, aren't you?
I can tell,

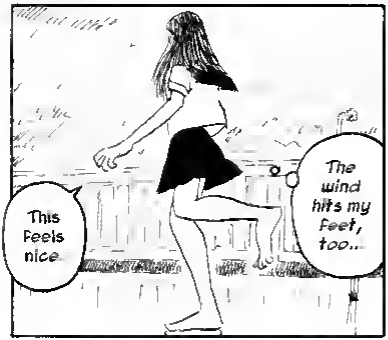
Hinata... you're sleeping.
And empty
...
<3
And you are?
Oh,
I'm... Hinata.
C'mon, get bare-foot.
Huh?
But I'm standing here talking to you...
That's not what I mean...

17


...
It feels great.
Do it!
Bare-foot,
Bare-foot.
Just like me.
C'mon!

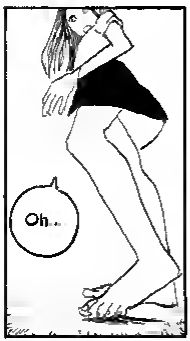

Walk walk walk
C'mon.


Wow
It's cold..
And wet...
And rough ...

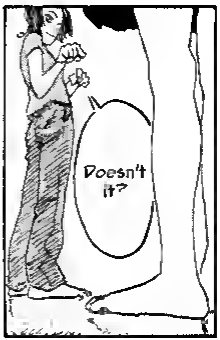

This feels nice
The wind hits my feet, too...

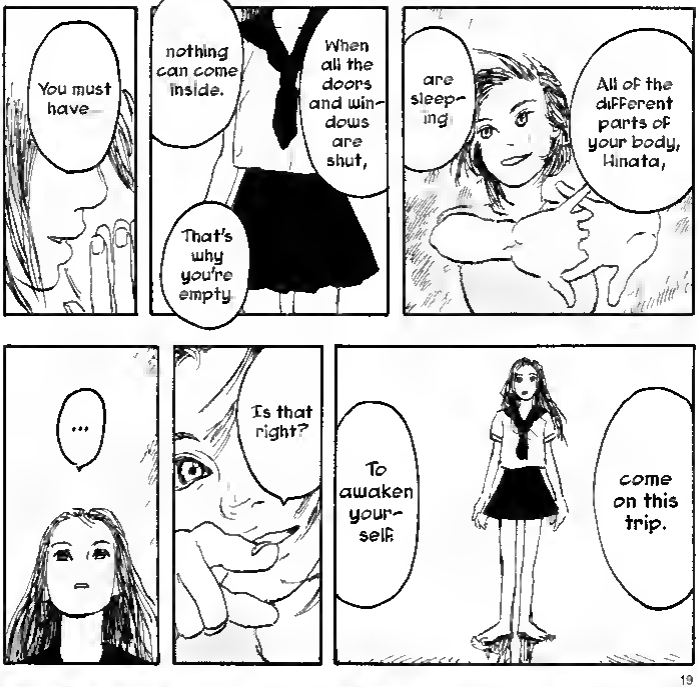
That's so I don't slip, despite the water
It hurts I feel the roughness biting into my soles...
Oh..

18


Oh..

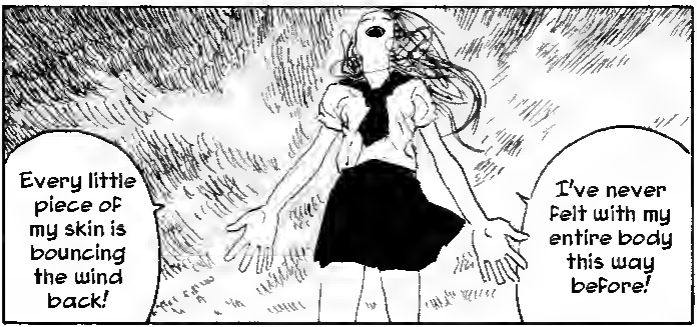
See? Your feet have just awakened.


Doesn't it?

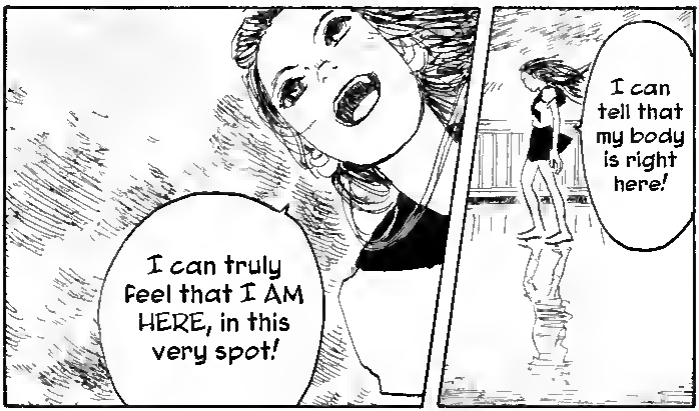

You must have
nothing can come inside.
When all the doors and windows are shut,
That's why you're empty
are sleeping
All of the different parts of your body, Hinata,
...
Is that right?
To awaken yourself
come on this trip.
Wow!

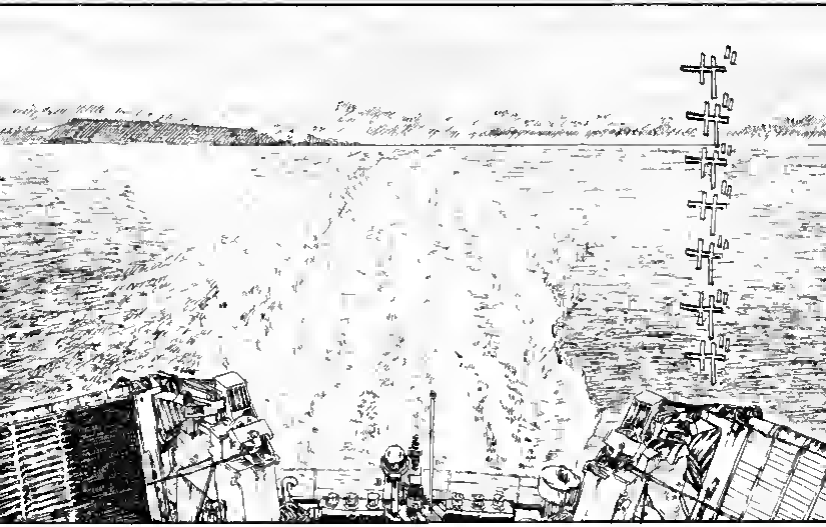
Haha ha.
I think this will make me look really pretty!
It feels like even the dirt's getting blown out of my pores!
When I point towards the wind, I can't breathe!
The wind is a naughty thing, isn't it?
That's why the wind is coming to embrace you.
But you are pretty.
It's touching me all over
She's right.

Are pressing and rubbing over every inch of my body...
The invisible hands of the wind...

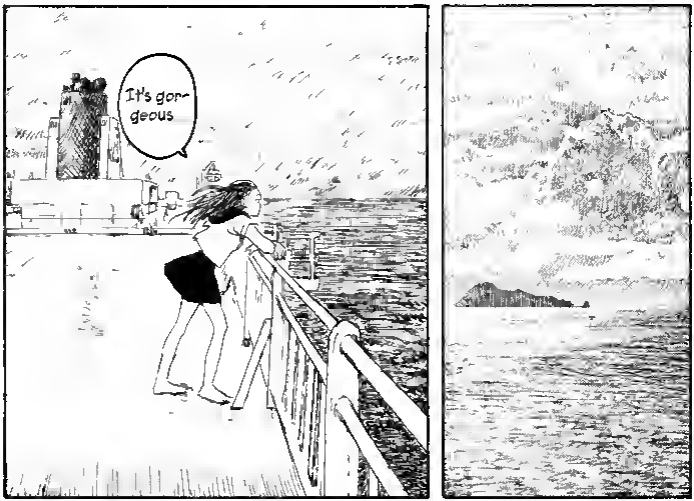

Every little piece of my skin is bouncing the wind back!
I've never felt with my entire body this way before!

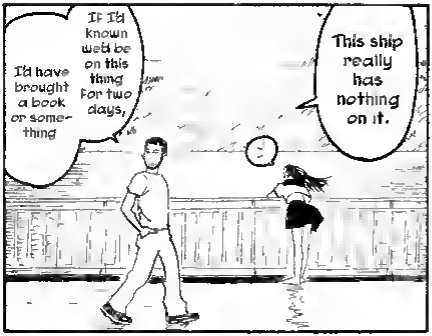
21


I can truly feel that I AM HERE, in this very spot!
I can tell that my body is right here!

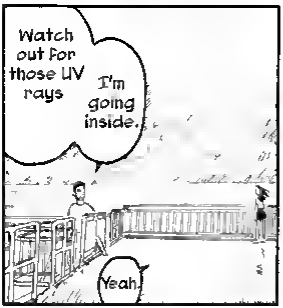


22




This ship really has nothing on it.
If I'd known we'd be on this thing for two days, I'd have brought a book or something

Yaaaaaaah...
salty out here

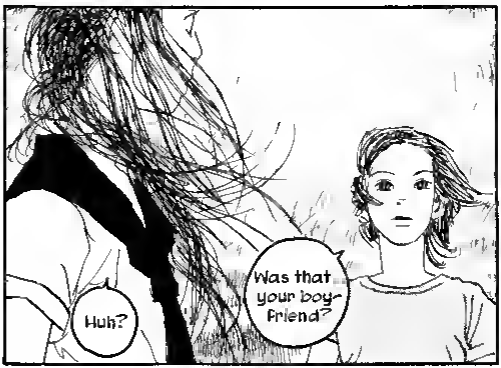

Watch out for those UV rays
I'm going inside.
Yeah.

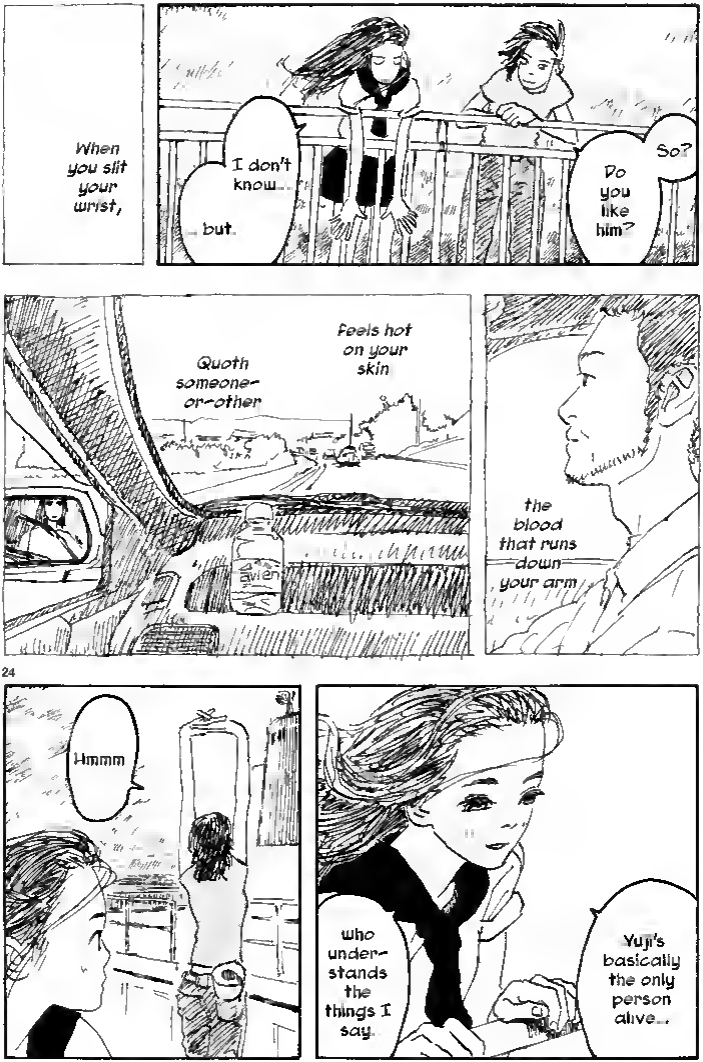
I've got really tender skin

Then don't ask.
Got anything on you, Hinata?
I assume not.

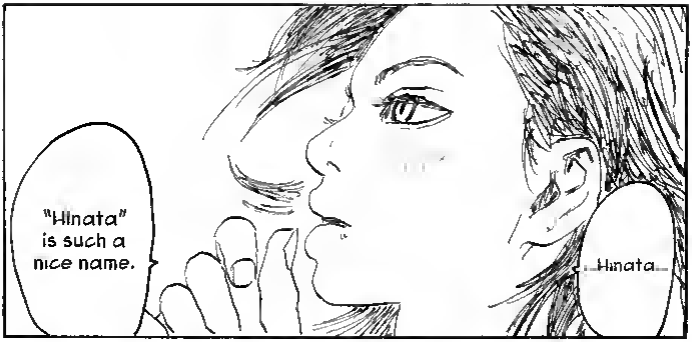
23

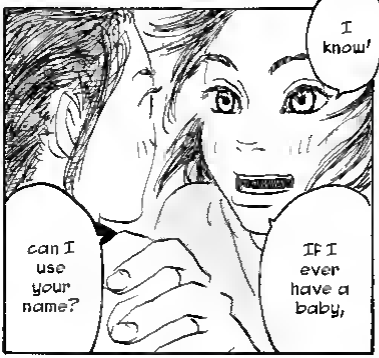
A relative... we used to live near each other years ago...
...Yuji.

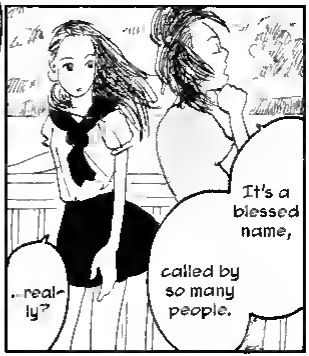

Was that your boyfriend?
Huh?

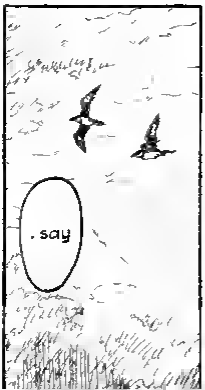

When you slit your wrist,
I don't know...
...but.
So?
Do you like him?
Quoth someone-or-other
Feels hot on your skin
the blood that runs down your arm
Hmmm
who understands the things I say.
Yuji's basically the only person alive...

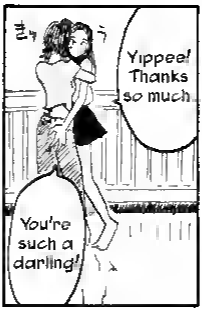
You know what? You're a lot more beloved by others than you think.
Huh?
Heehee... you're such a sweetheart, Hinata.
You're so protected by them that you don't even notice it!
But I can tell
I can see it
...that's not true.
25
What?
nothing
...I'm jealous...

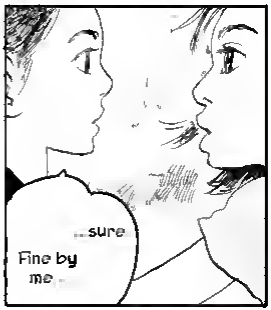

"Hinata" is such a nice name.
...Hinata...

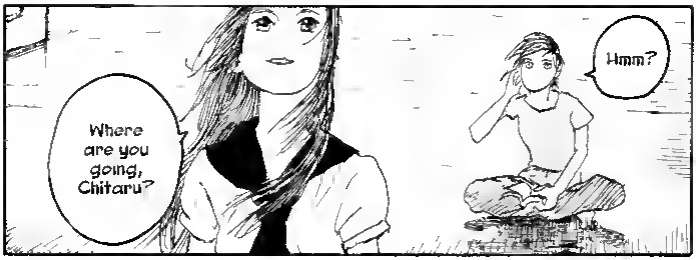

I know!
If I ever have a baby,
can I use your name?

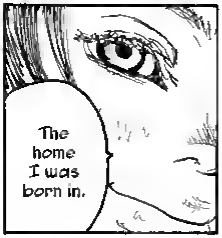

It's a blessed name,
called by so many people.
...really?

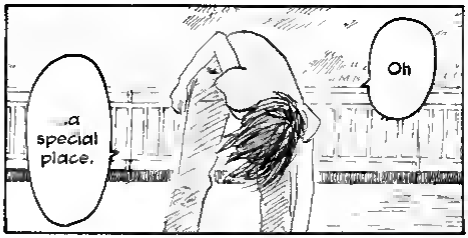

...say


Yippee! Thanks so much
You're such a darling!

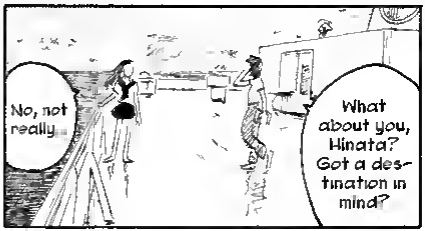

...sure
Fine by me...


Where are you going, Chitaru?
Hmm?

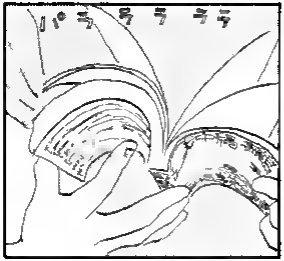

The home I was born in.

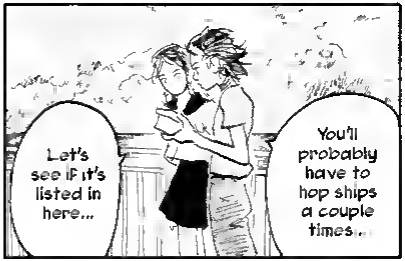

...a special place.
Oh

Let me recommend an island for you to visit
In THAT case!

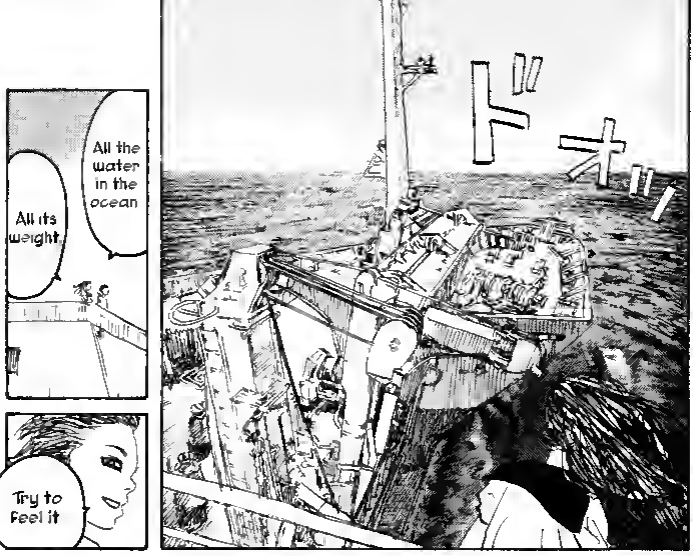

No, not really...
What about you, Hinata? Got a destination in mind?

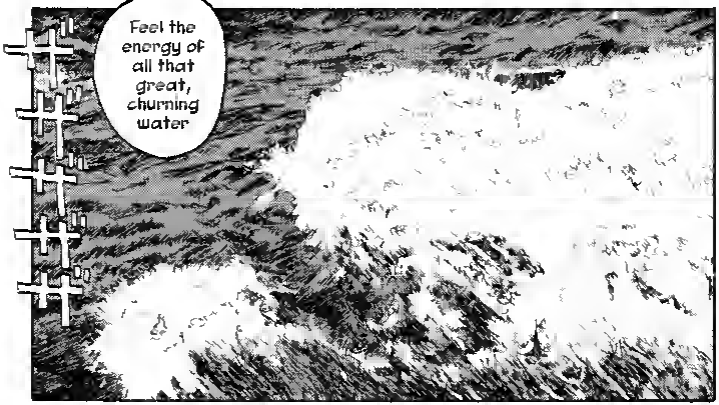
27

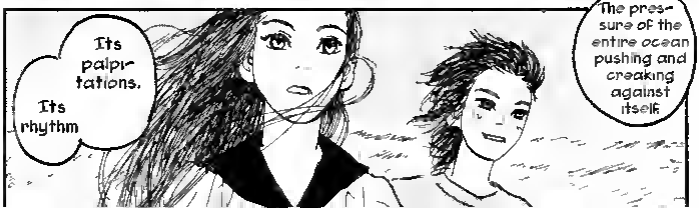


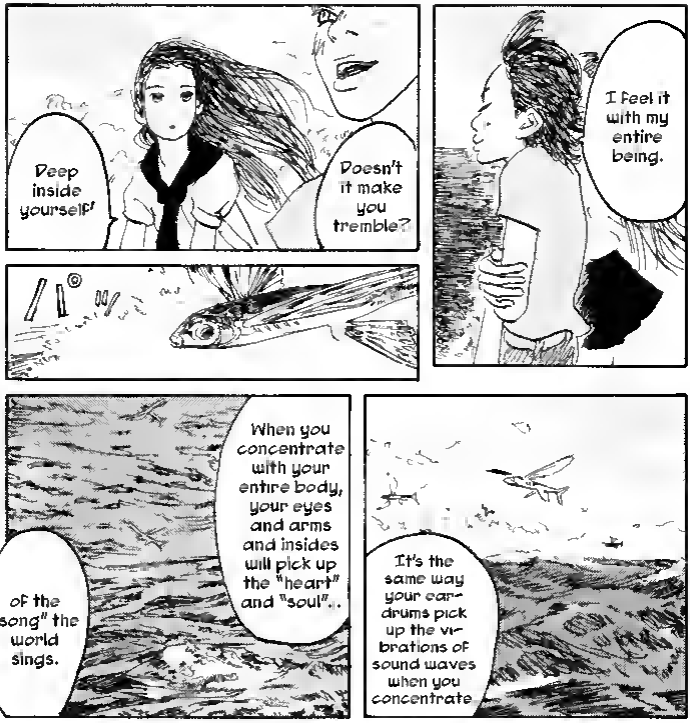

Let's see if it's listed in here...
You'll probably have to hop ships a couple times...

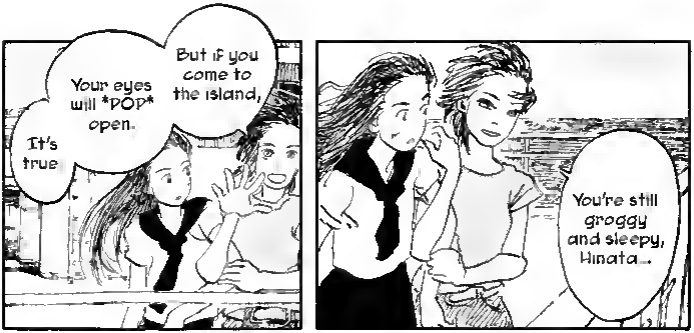
It's so tiny...
Check it out, if you're curious.
Here! This one!
it's the other place where I was born.
The island sings a song.
Also,
This particular island is a very special place.
28
Come on!
Song?
...other?

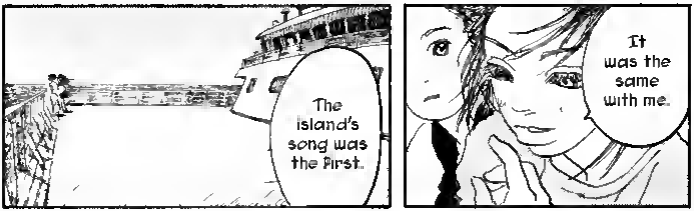

All the water in the ocean
All its weight
Try to feel it
ドォォォ


Feel the energy of all that great, churning water

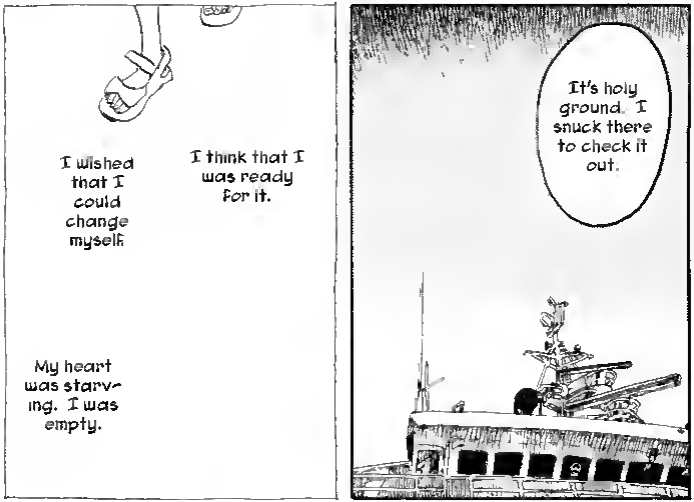

Its palpitations.
Its rhythm
The pressure of the entire ocean pushing and creaking against itself.


Deep inside yourself
Doesn't it make you tremble?
I feel it with my entire being.
When you concentrate with your entire body, your eyes and arms and insides will pick up the "heart" and "soul"...
of the "song" the world sings.
It's the same way your eardrums pick up the vibrations of sound waves when you concentrate
If everything you are awakens,
then your everything
will feel the "song"

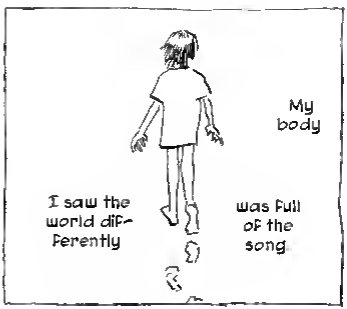

But if you come to the island,
Your eyes will *POP* open.
It's true.
You're still groggy and sleepy, Hinata...


The island's song was the first.
It was the same with me.

31


I wished that I could change myself.
I think that I was ready for it.
My heart was starving. I was empty.
It's holy ground. I snuck there to check it out.

When it happened,
The song of the island


My body
I saw the world differently
was full of the song

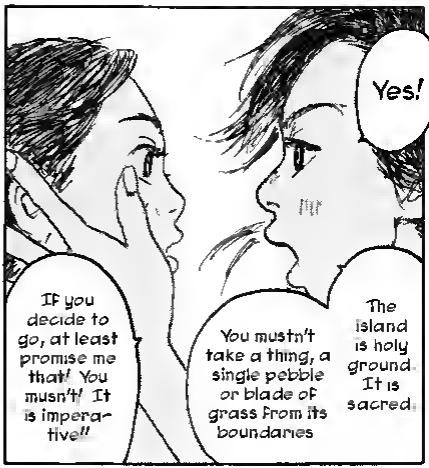
I guess... because it was holy ground.

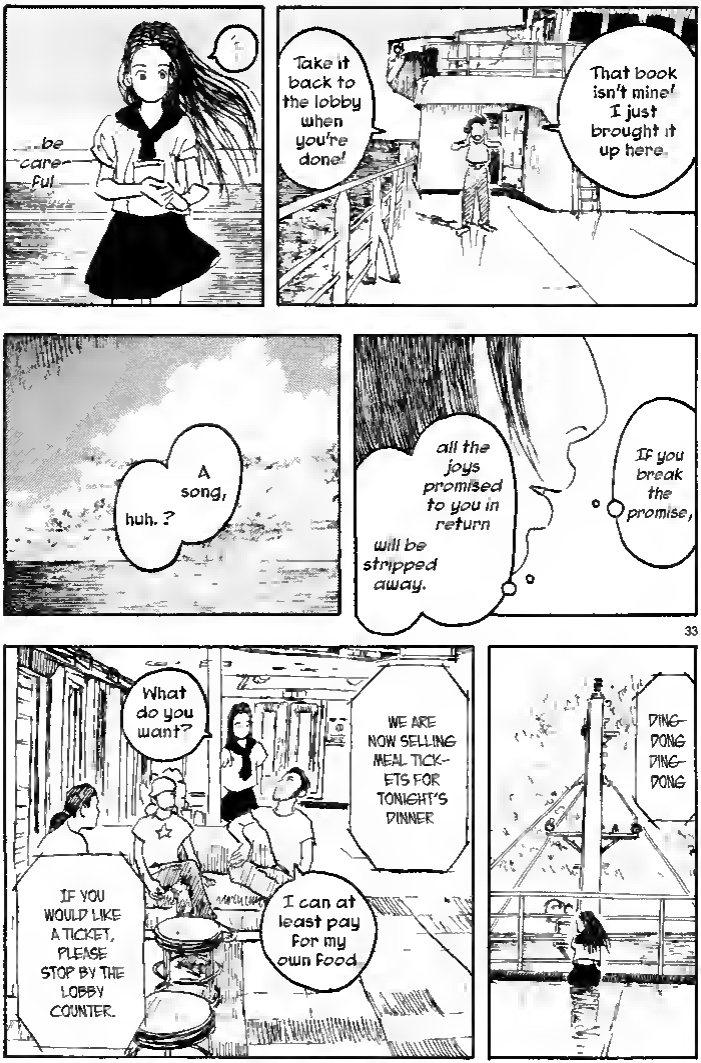
were on the exact same wavelength
and the trembling in my heart

32

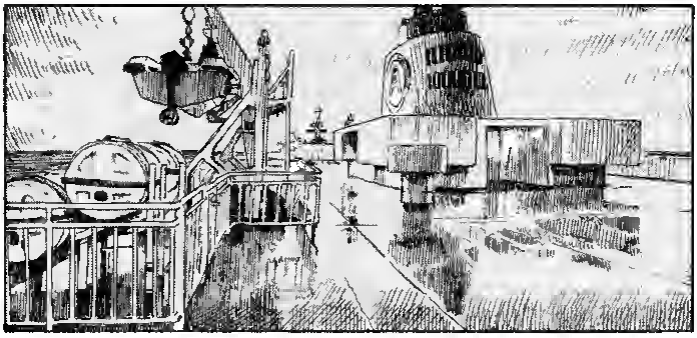
You're free to steal whatever you want, anywhere else.
WINCE

Oh, right

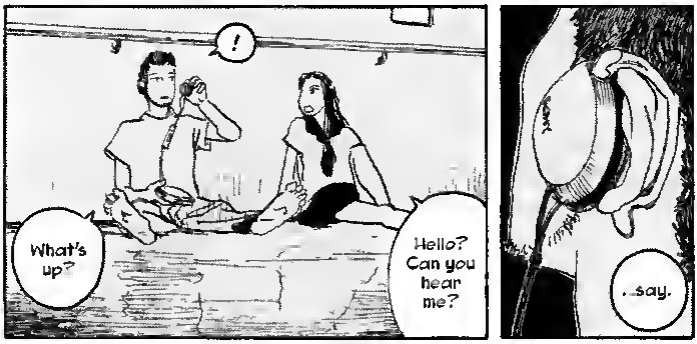

Yes!
The island is holy ground. It is sacred.
You mustn't take a thing, a single pebble or blade of grass from its boundaries
If you decide to go, at least promise me that! You musn't! It is imperative!!


...be careful
Take it back to the lobby when you're done!
That book isn't mine! I just brought it up here.
A song, huh.?
all the joys promised to you in return
will be stripped away.
If you break the promise,
33
What do you want?
WE ARE NOW SELLING MEAL TICKETS FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A TICKET, PLEASE STOP BY THE LOBBY COUNTER.
I can at least pay for my own food.
DING-DONG DING-DONG

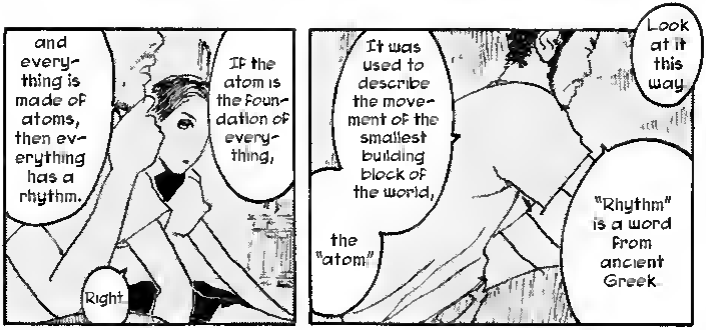
No, I'll buy. It'll feel bad about using it all for myself...
What do you mean?

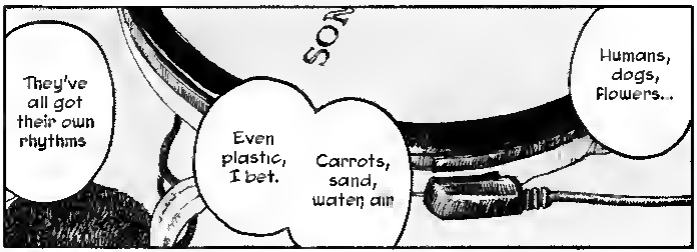


34

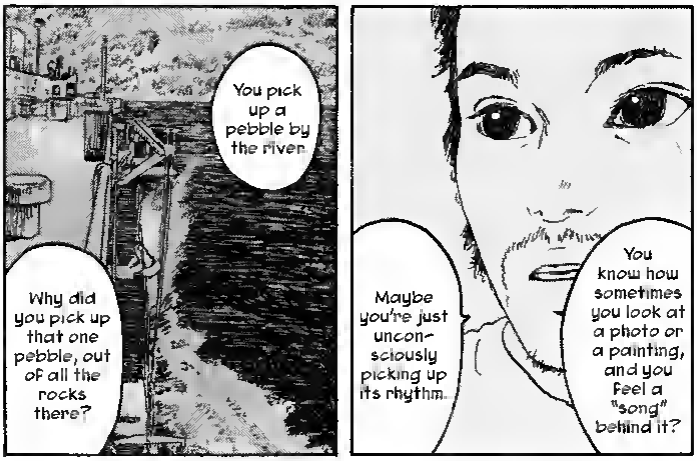

!
What's up?
Hello? Can you hear me?
..say.

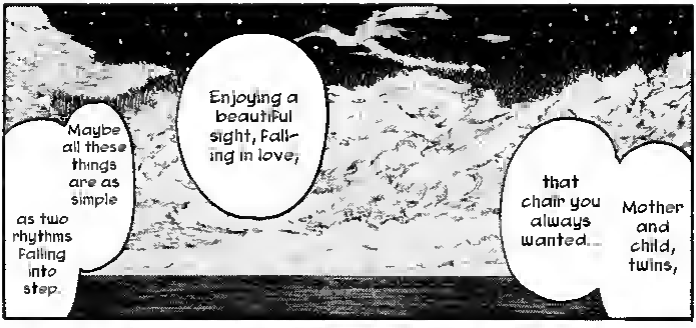
Doesn't everybody? Besides, there's nothing else to do.
You like music?
You're always listening to that.
It's like they get trapped right in your ears, you know?
I don't like how songs get stuck on you.
Huh? Not really.
...well, I guess you don't.
...Hinata.
You hear a song on the morning TV,
and you hum it the rest of the day.
I HATE that.
35
Maybe if you heard the right song, you'd get into music.
Like a perfectionist.
Have you considered you might be OVER-sensitive to sound?


and everything is made of atoms, then everything has a rhythm.
Right.
If the atom is the foundation of everything,
It was used to describe the movement of the smallest building block of the world,
the "atom"
Look at it this way
"Rhythm" is a word from ancient Greek


SON
They've all got their own rhythms
Even plastic, I bet.
Carrots, sand, water, air
Humans, dogs, flowers...

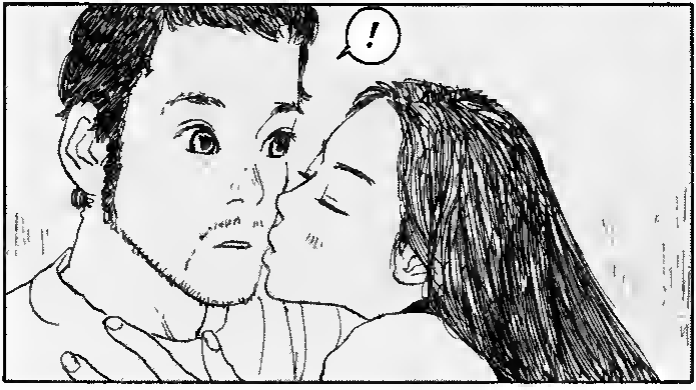
36


You pick up a pebble by the river.
Why did you pick up that one pebble, out of all the rocks there?
Maybe you're just unconsciously picking up its rhythm.
You know how sometimes you look at a photo or a painting, and you feel a "song" behind it?


Maybe all these things are as simple as two rhythms falling into step.
Enjoying a beautiful sight, falling in love,
Mother and child, twins,
that chair you always wanted...

is just like a song...
Then the world as we see it
...if all of these rhythms intersecting are what makes the world the way it is...

37

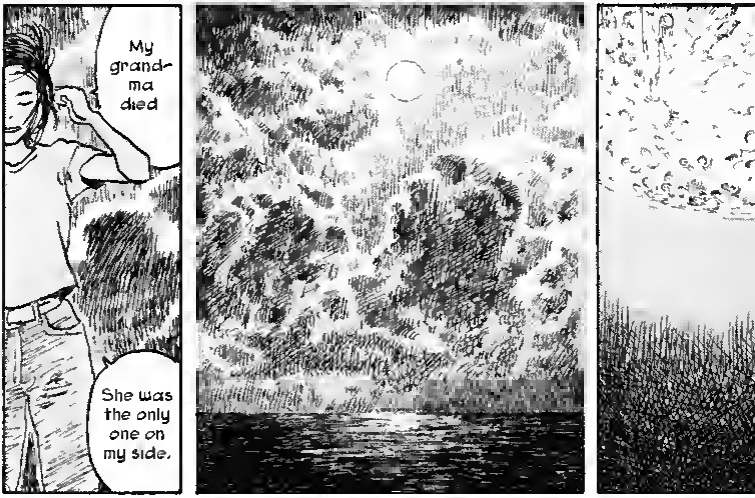

!

You know everything. You can do anything.
I always thought you were so far away.
Not like me at all
You're so special, Yuji...
But...
All I have to do is reach out,
and I can touch you
I feel like I'm just some dumb girl who doesn't know a thing!
EVERYONE is amazing!

...you think so?
So there's someone out there who meshes with you
You're different from everyone else.
That's what everyone thinks.
...you are.
Am I fine the way I am?
I do.
39
Good evening!

I'm... Yuji
I'm Chitaru. Hi.
Check out the moon!

40

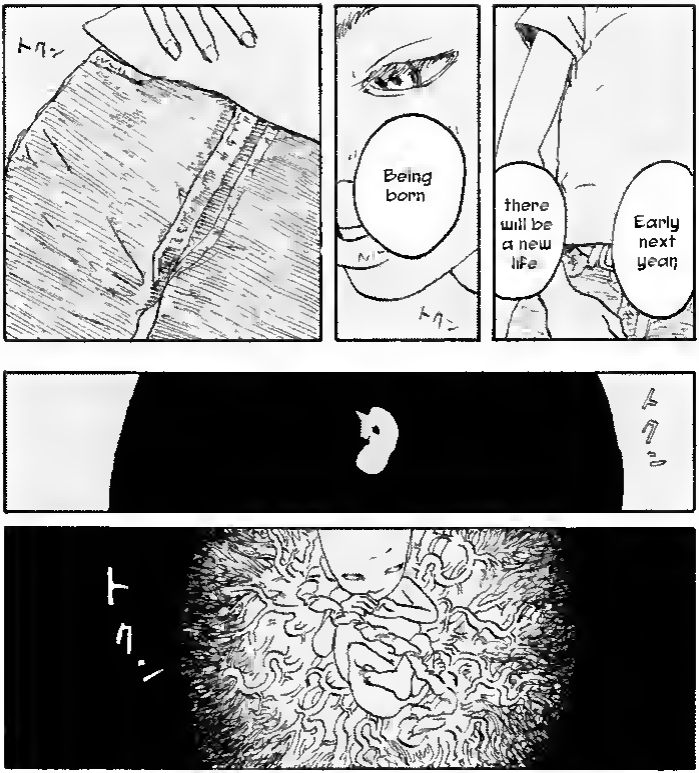

My grandma died
She was the only one on my side.

"I'll wave to you from the moon, Chitaru," she said.
"And go back to bein' your soul. Then, you can even walk to the moon if you want."
Grandma always told me,
"When you die, you take off the tangles of human life,"

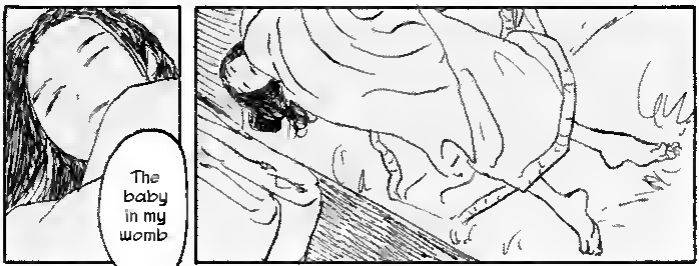
it's just a bit too far to see her
...
But,

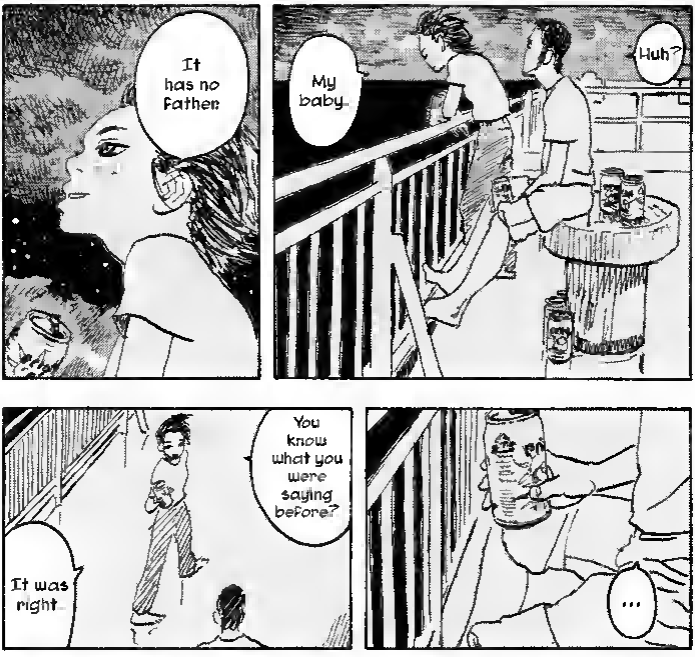
41

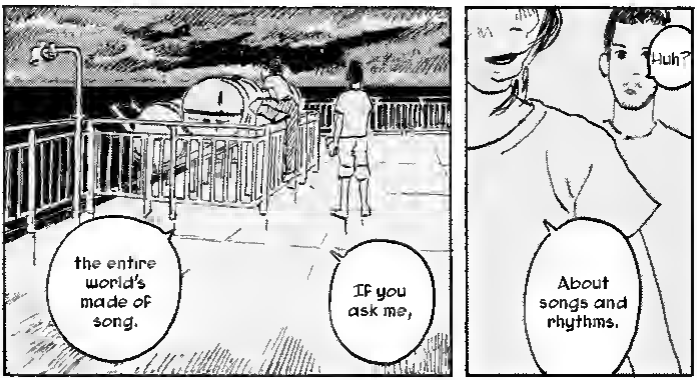
In the same place...
In the house I was born in, years ago.
...my grandmother died this year,


トクン
Being born
トクン
there will be a new life
Early next year
トクン
トクン

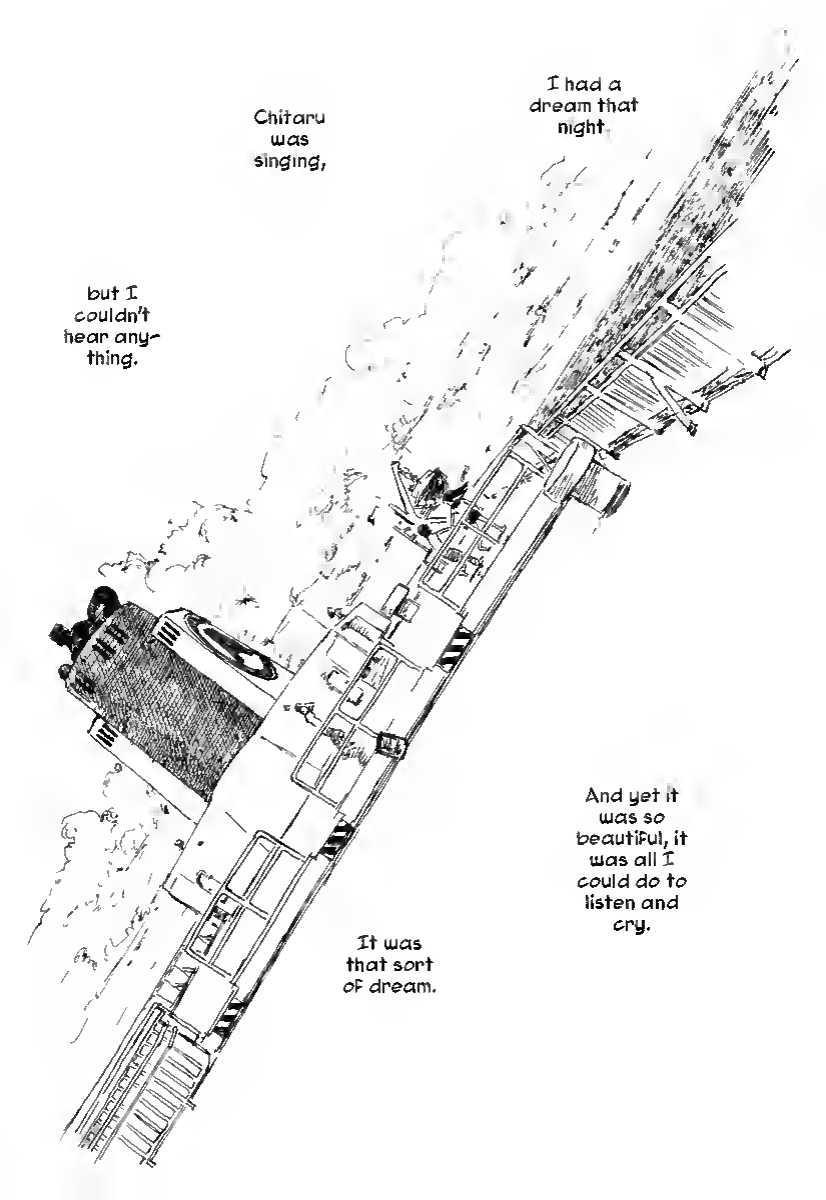
42

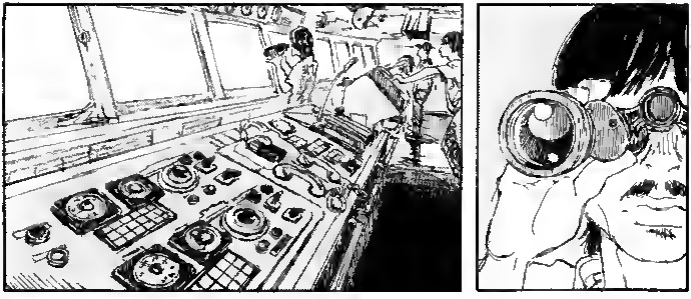

The baby in my womb


It has no father.
My baby.
Huh?
You know what you were saying before?
It was right.
...

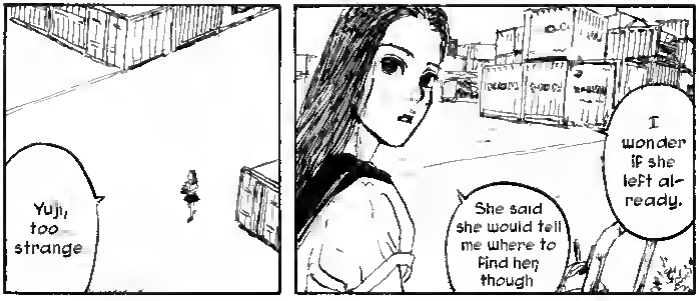

the entire world's made of song.
If you ask me,
Huh?
About songs and rhythms.

It was born from a song.
This feels great!


I had a dream that night.
Chitaru was singing,
but I couldn't hear anything.
And yet it was so beautiful, it was all I could do to listen and cry.
It was that sort of dream.

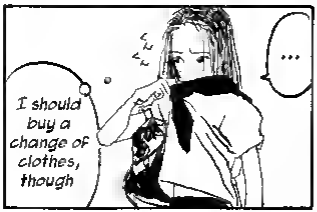


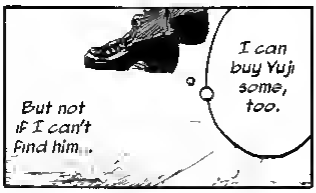
46

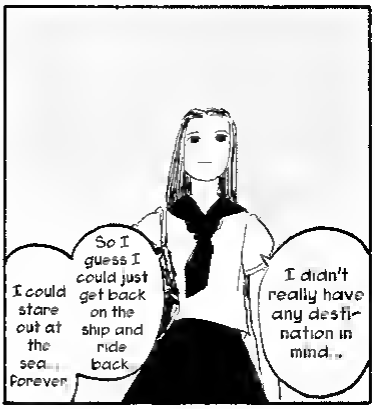

Yuji, too strange
She said she would tell me where to find her, though
I wonder if she left already.

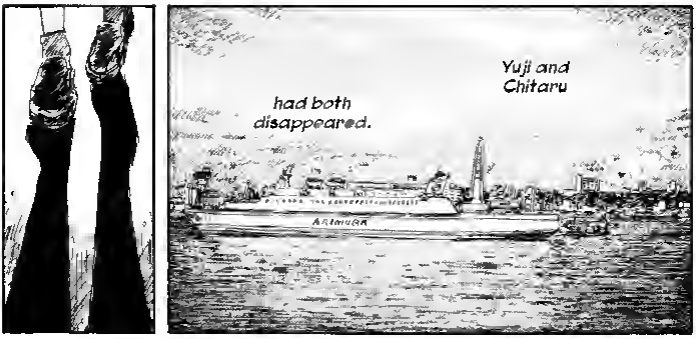
I feel so satisfied
It's so nice watching the sea...
...

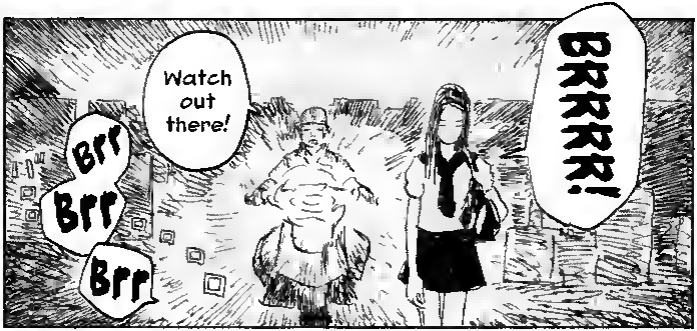
47


I should buy a change of clothes, though
...

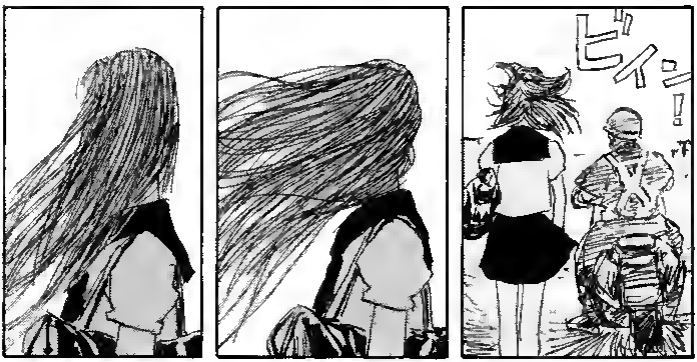

But not if I can't find him...
I can buy Yuji some, too.

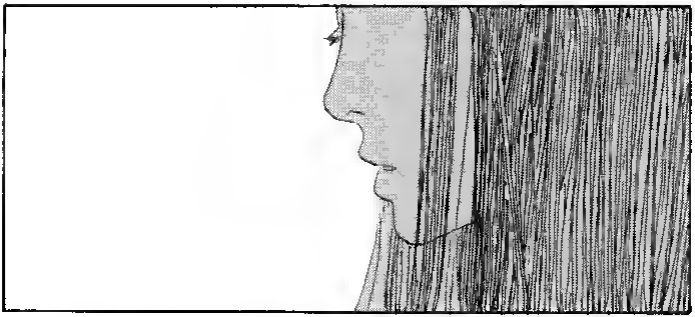

I could stare out at the sea... forever
So I guess I could just get back on the ship and ride back.
I didn't really have any destination in mind...


Yuji and Chitaru
had both disappeared.


BRRRR!
Watch out there!
Brr
Brr
Brr

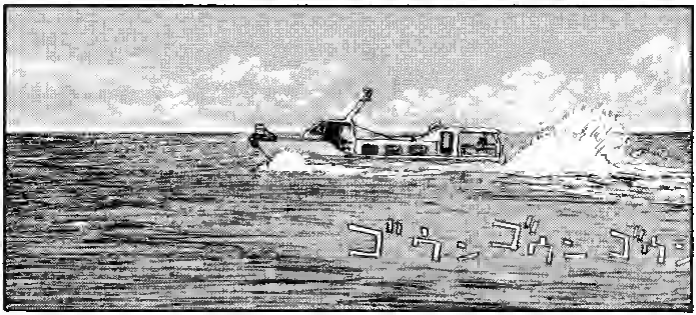
48

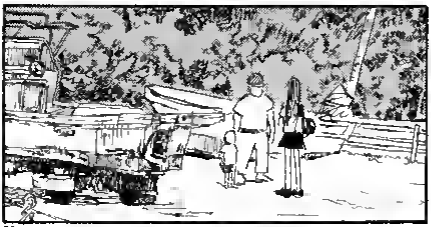

ビィン！

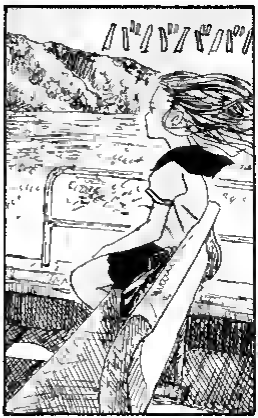


49

ザアッ


ゴゥン ゴゥン ゴゥン

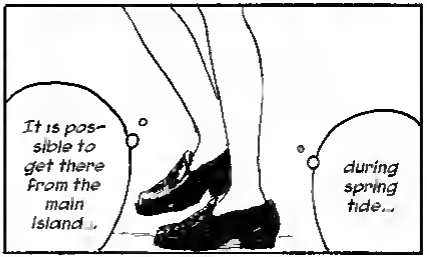


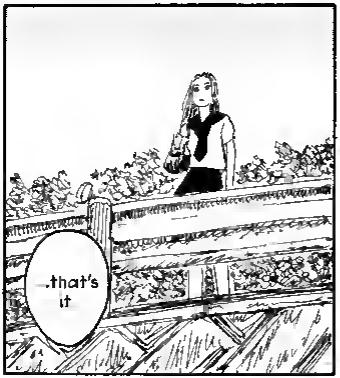

バンバンバンバン

But,
No ships land on it regularly.
The island,
is uninhabited.

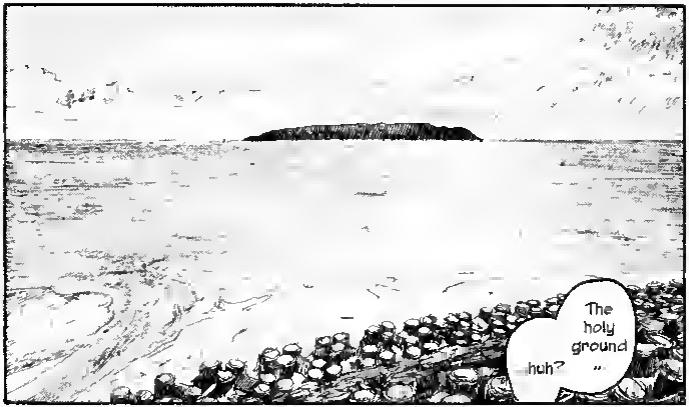
51

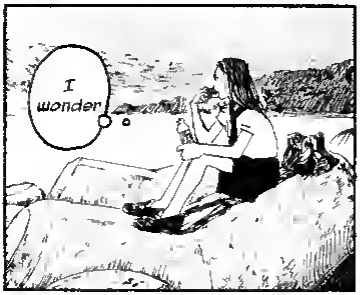
By foot

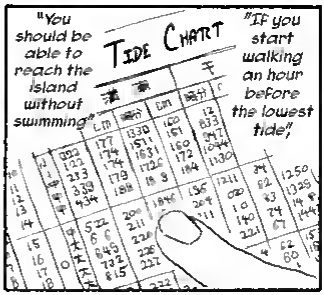

It is possible to get there from the main island...
during spring tide...


...that's it

"You'll get a little wet, though."

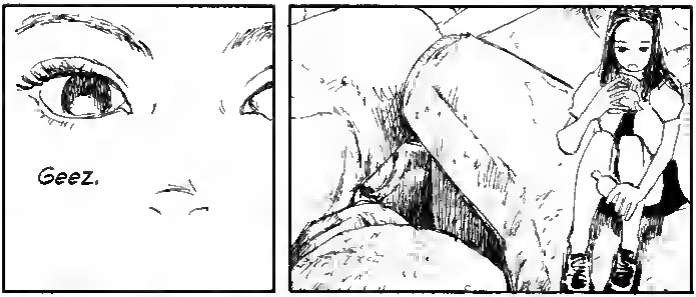

The holy ground
huh?


I wonder

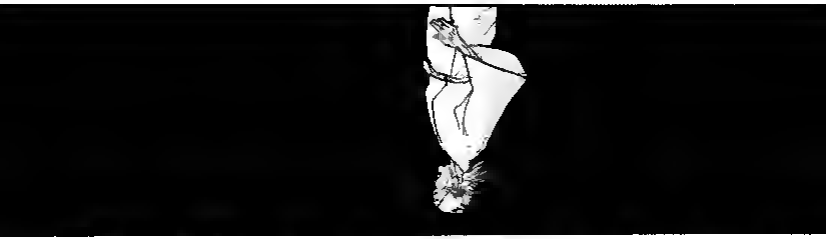

"You should be able to reach the island without swimming"
TIDE CHART
"If you start walking an hour before the lowest tide"

52

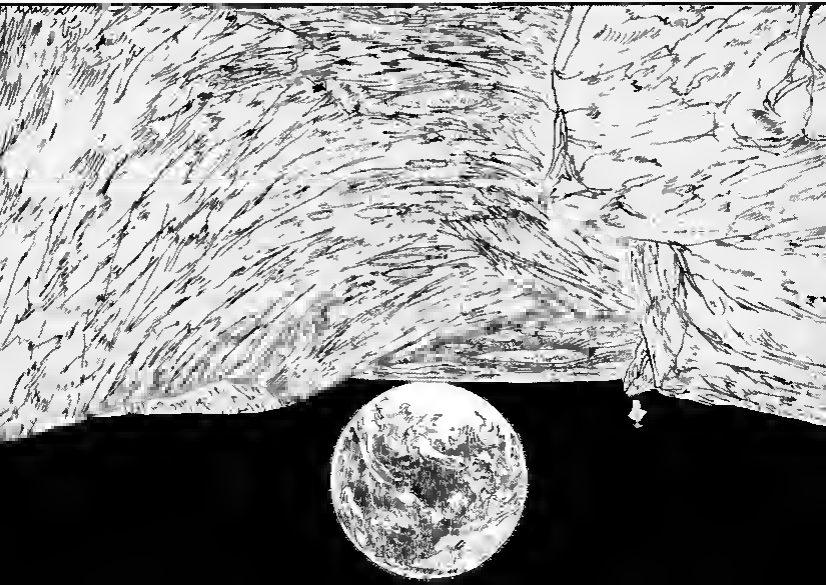
Why am I doing what Chitaru told me?

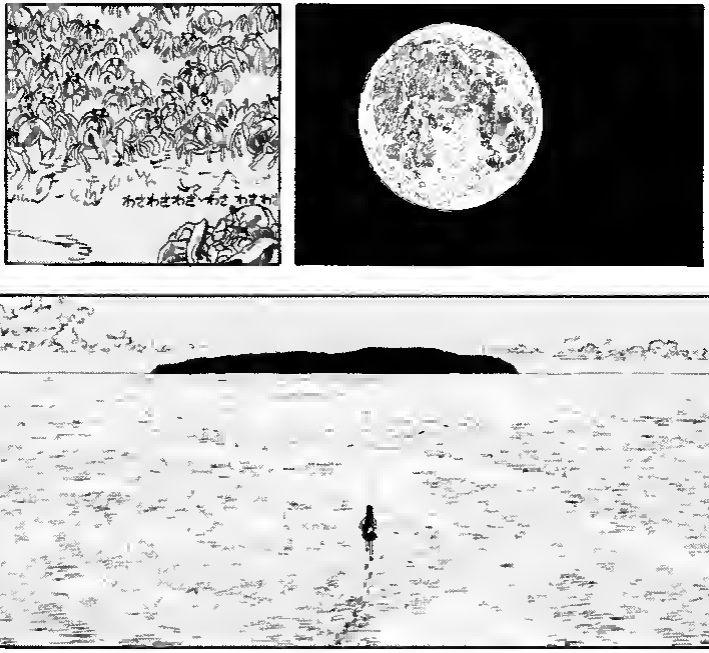


53

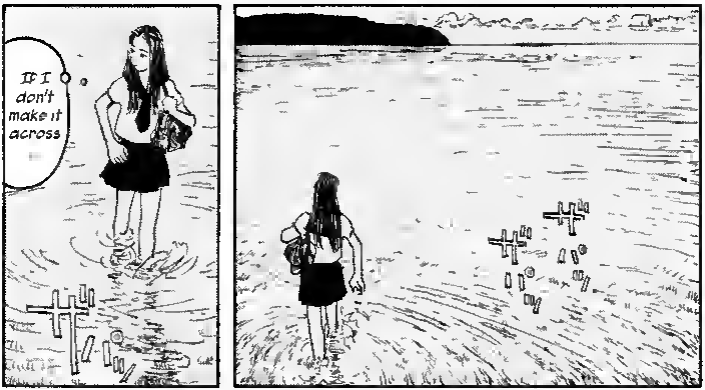


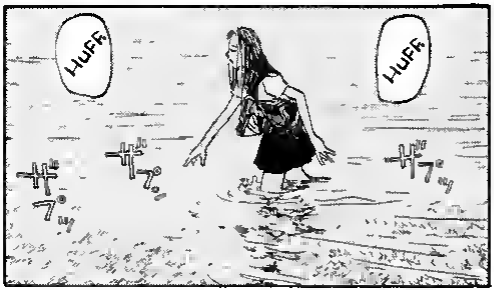
54



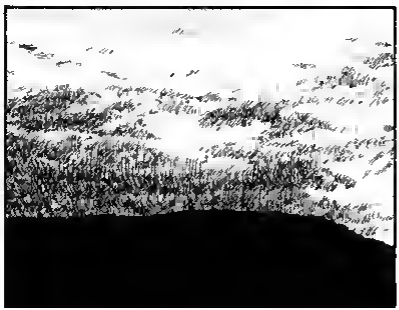


55

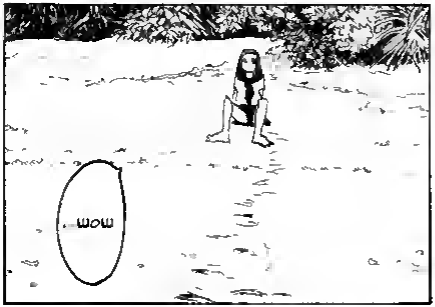




56

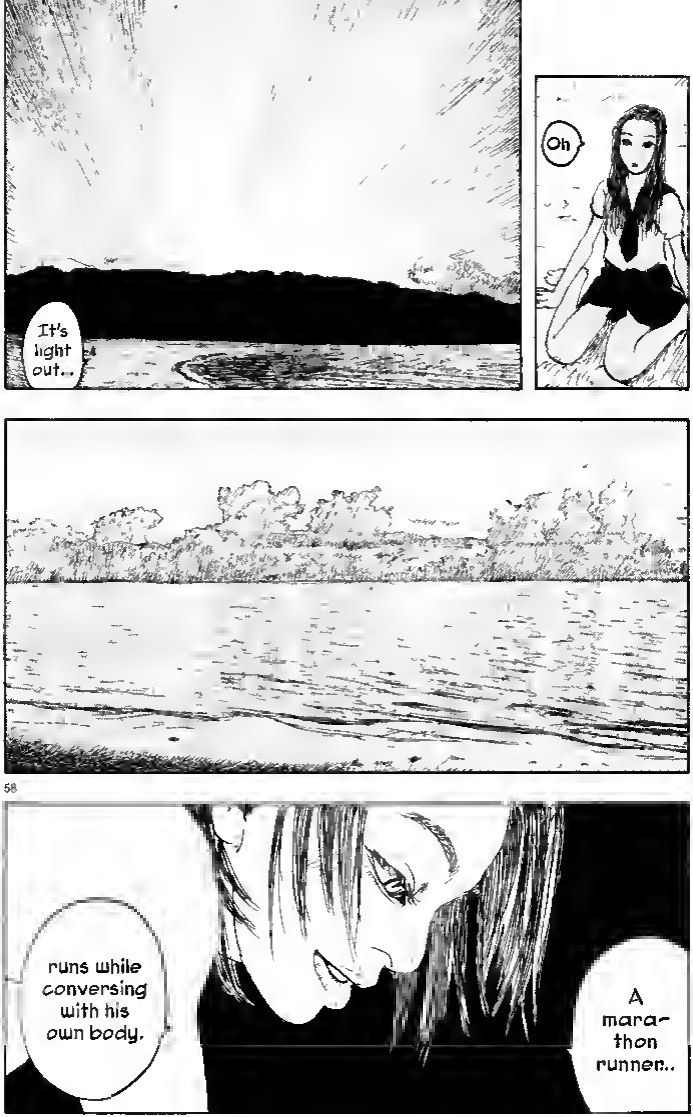


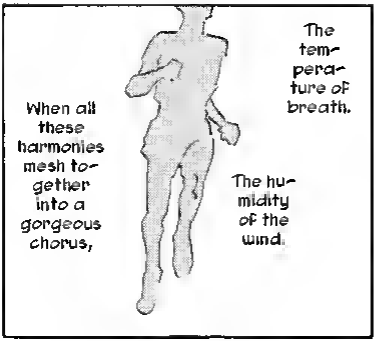
heh
The soles of my feet are killing me...

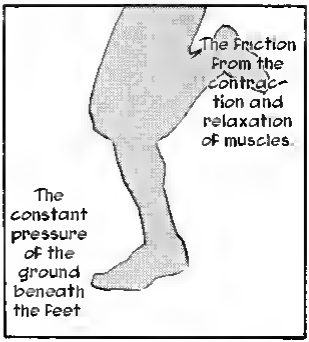

...wow

I haven't used my body this much...
in years and years

I really, actually,
walked across the sea...


It's light out...
Oh
58
runs while conversing with his own body.
A marathon runner..


When all these harmonies mesh together into a gorgeous chorus,
The temperature of breath.
The humidity of the wind.


The friction from the contraction and relaxation of muscles.
The constant pressure of the ground beneath the feet

As do swimmers,

you run as though singing.

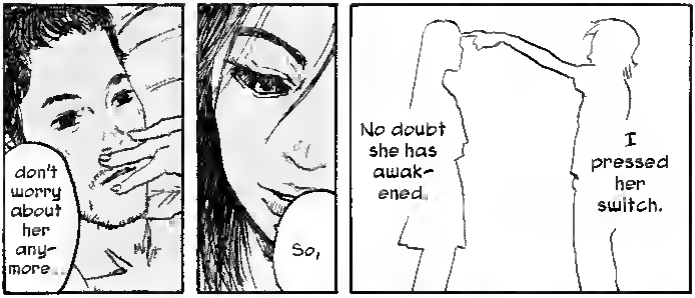
and field-workers making beautiful vegetables.

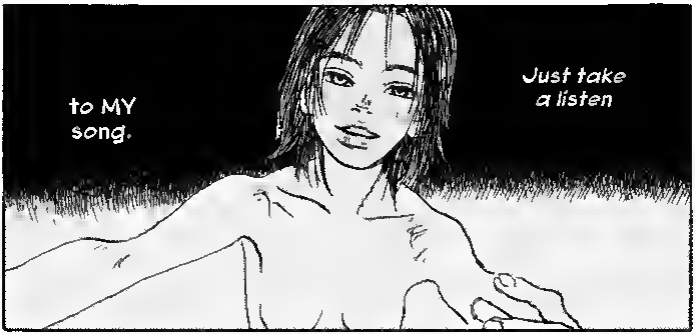
59

Hinata understands this.

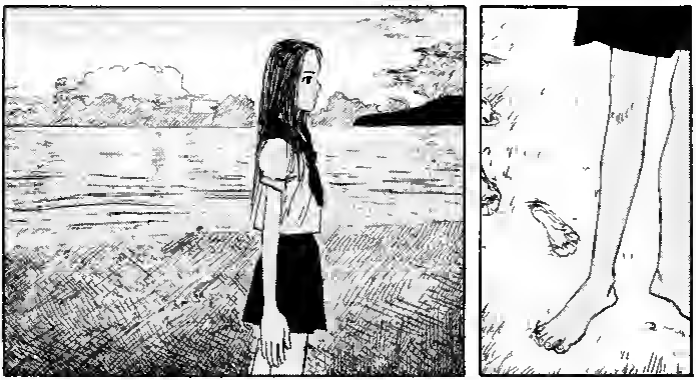
They try,
to blend in with the world.

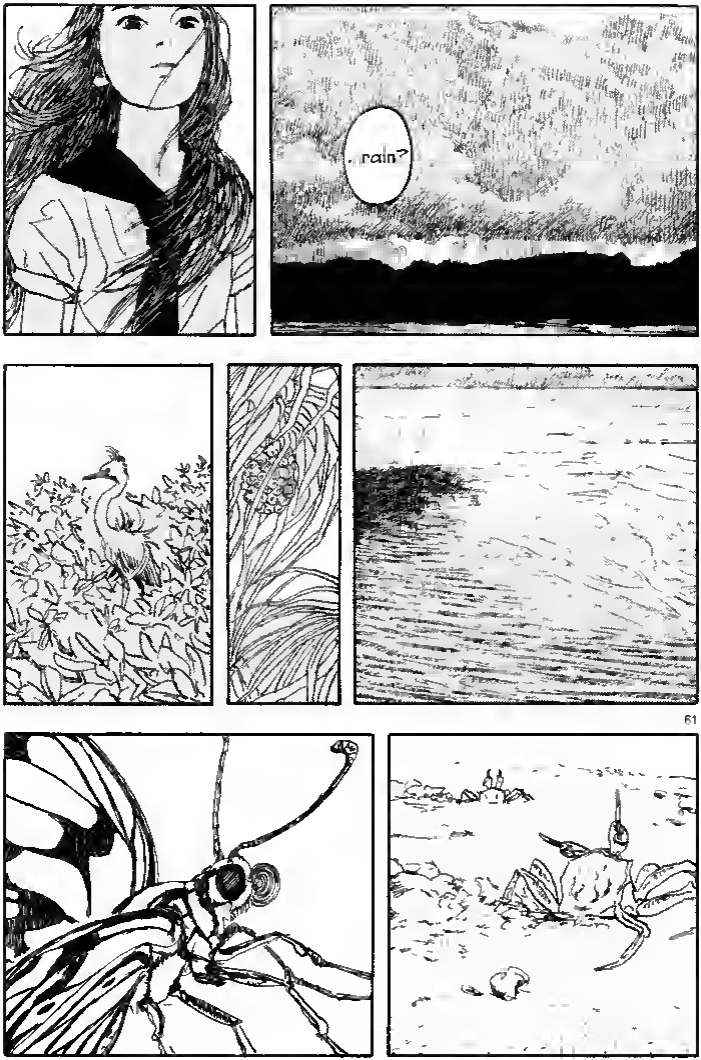
They all feel the song of the world.
They try to be a part of the song..

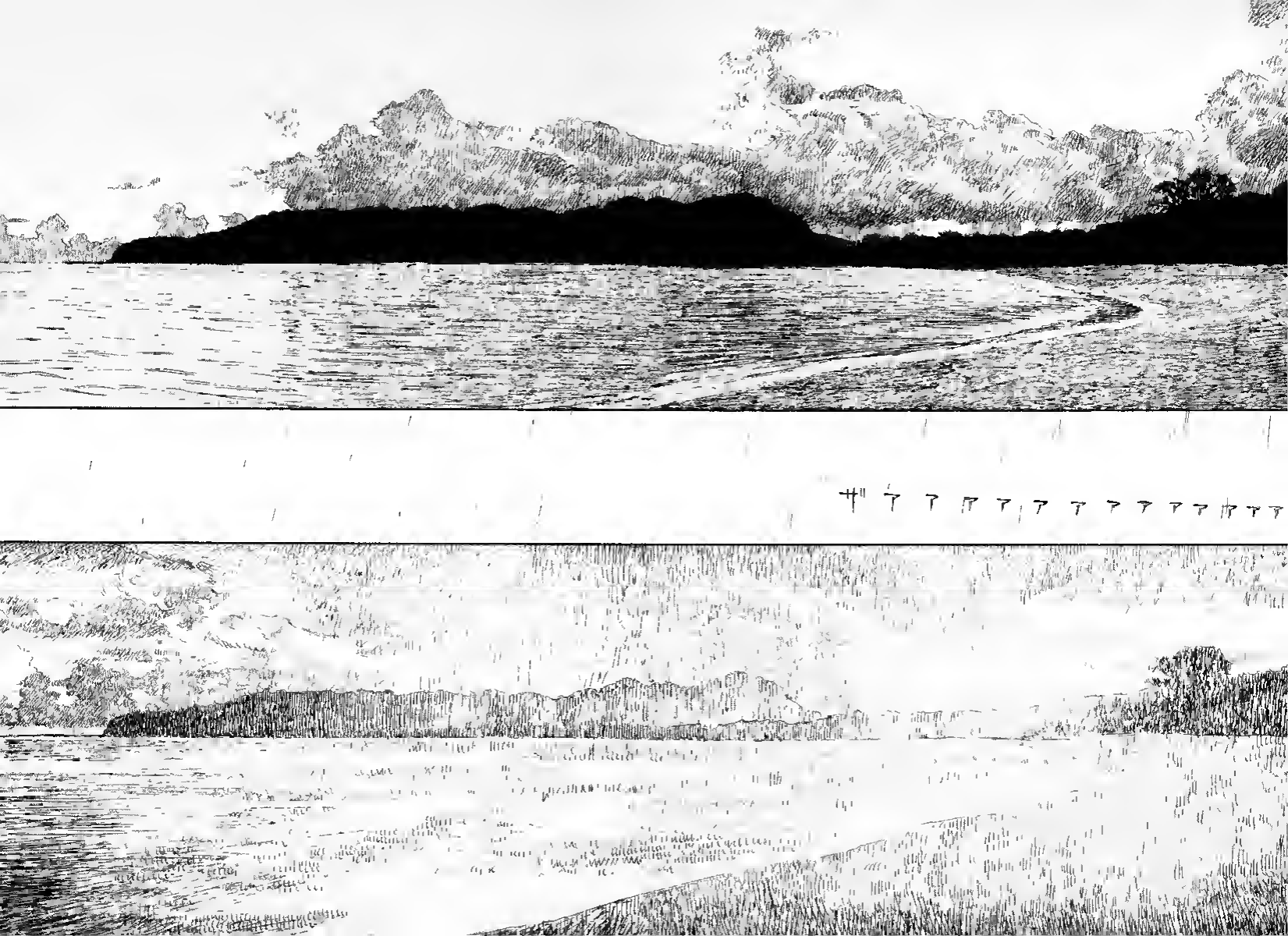

don't worry about her anymore.
So,
No doubt she has awakened.
I pressed her switch.

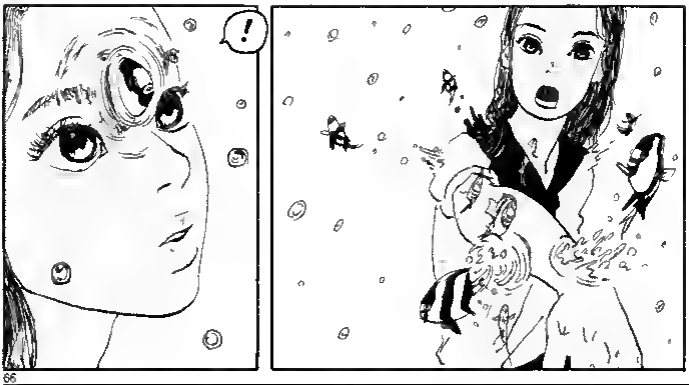

to MY song.
Just take a listen

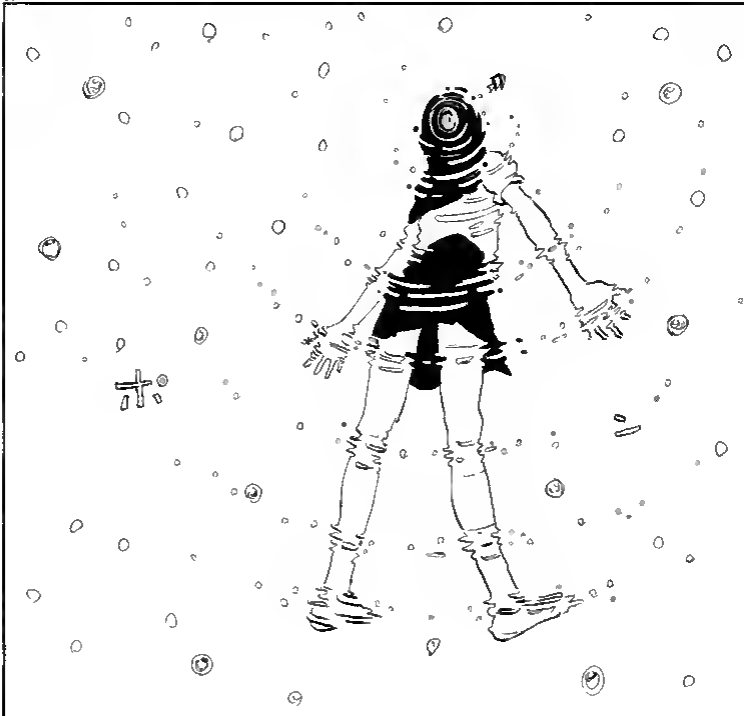
60

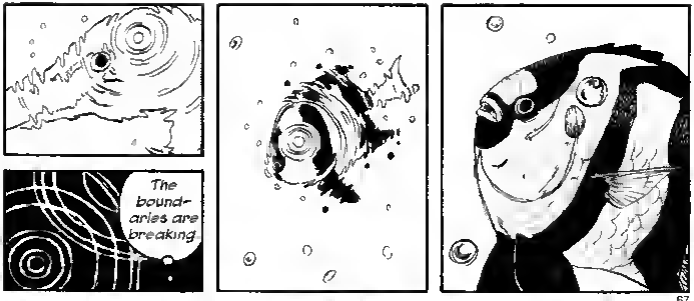



. rain?

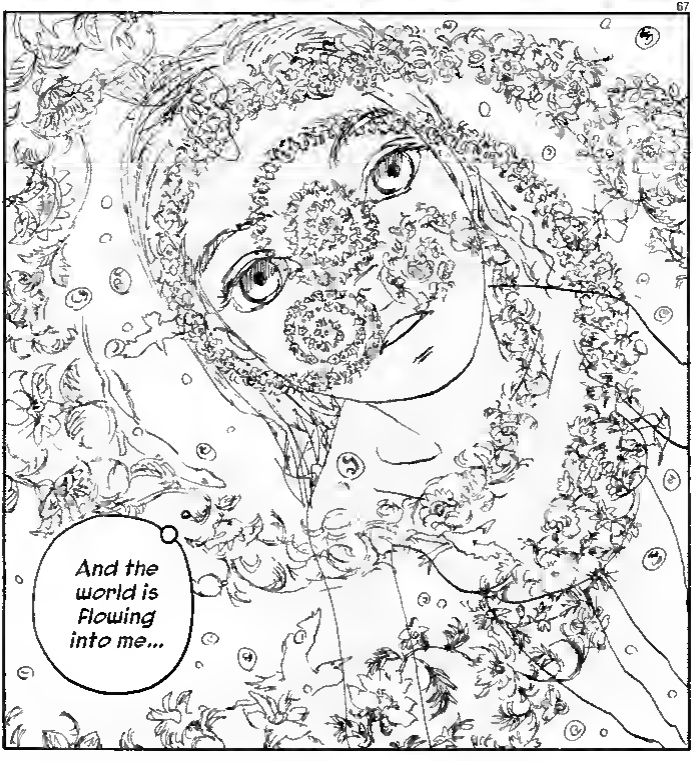


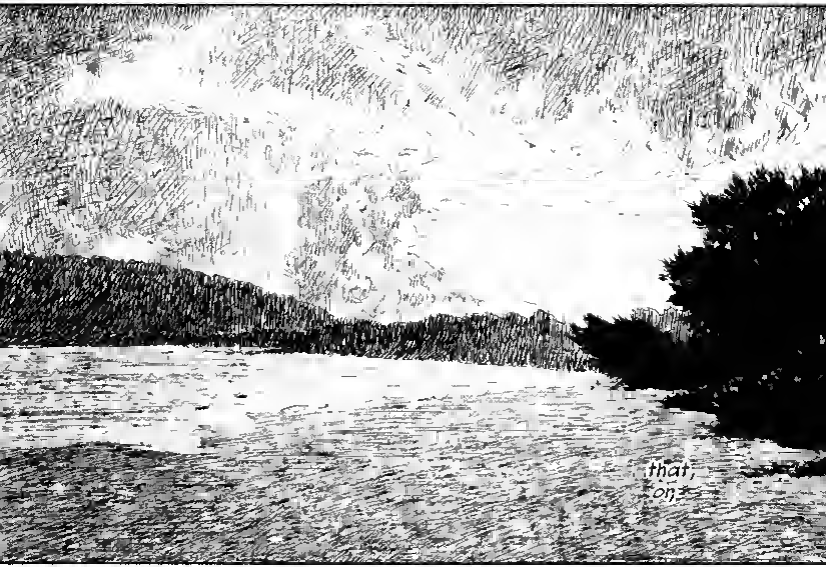





The boundaries are breaking

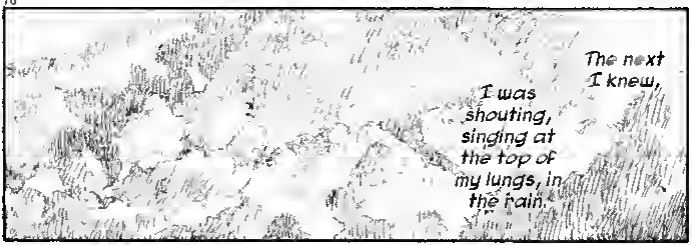
67

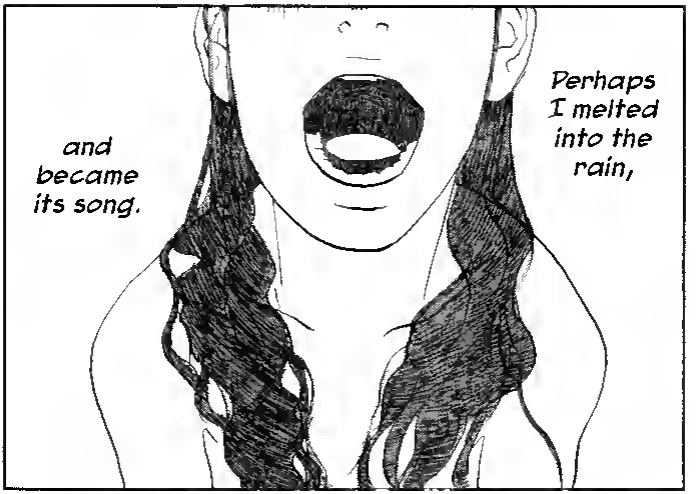

And the world is flowing into me...


that,
on=

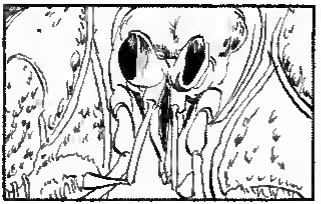
I have melted
away into the
world.

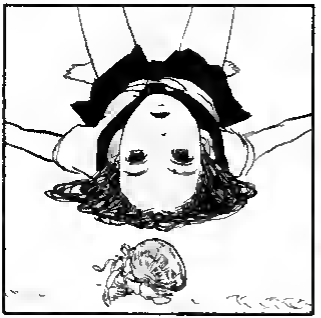
70

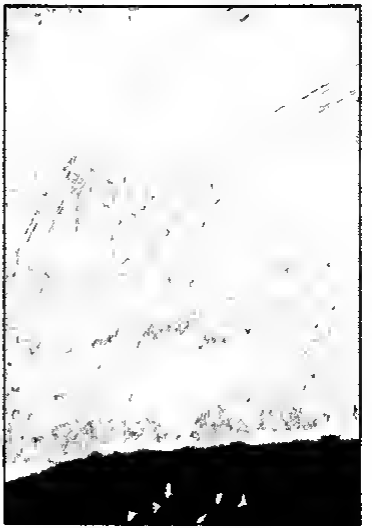

The next
I knew,
I was
shouting,
singing at
the top of
my lungs, in
the rain.

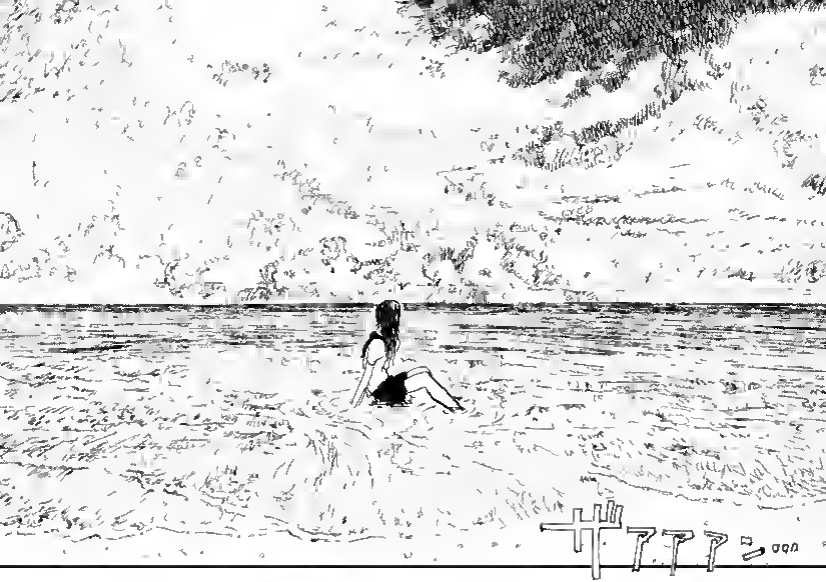


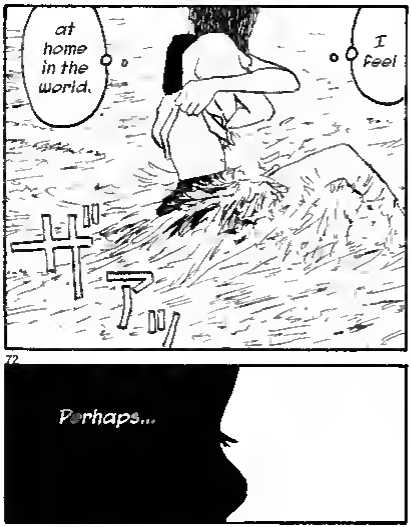
71

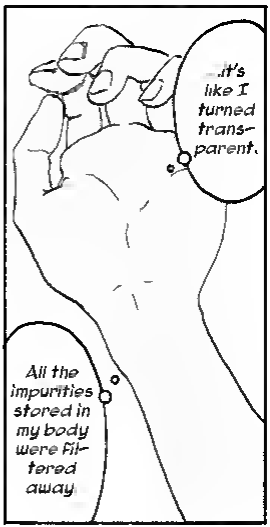




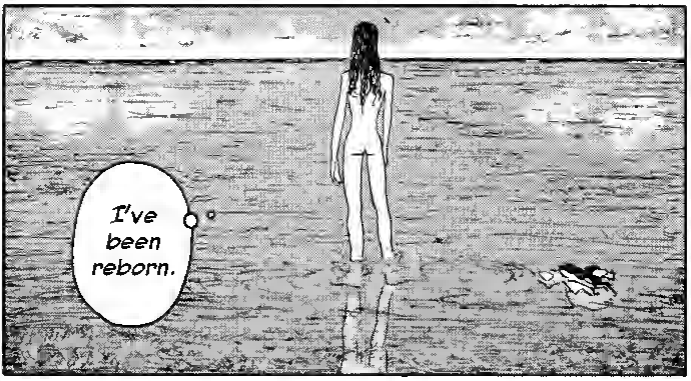




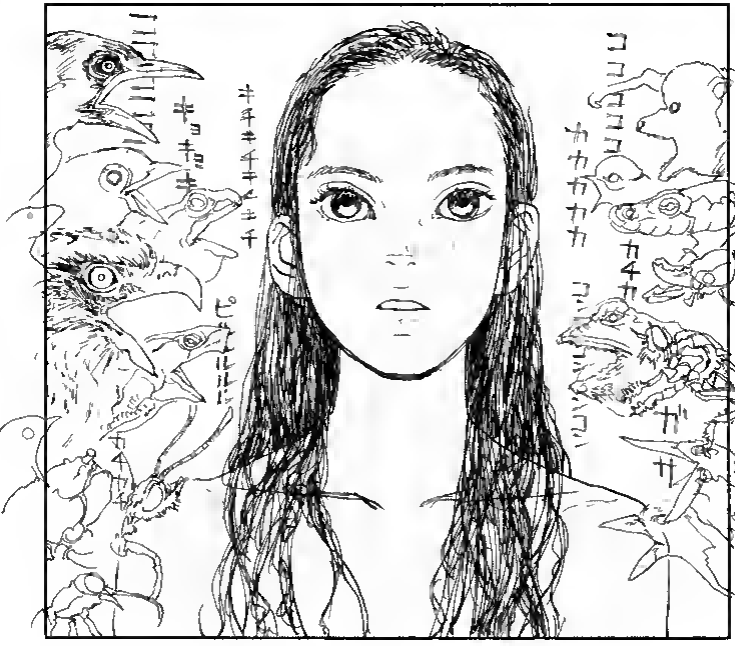

at home in the world.
I feel

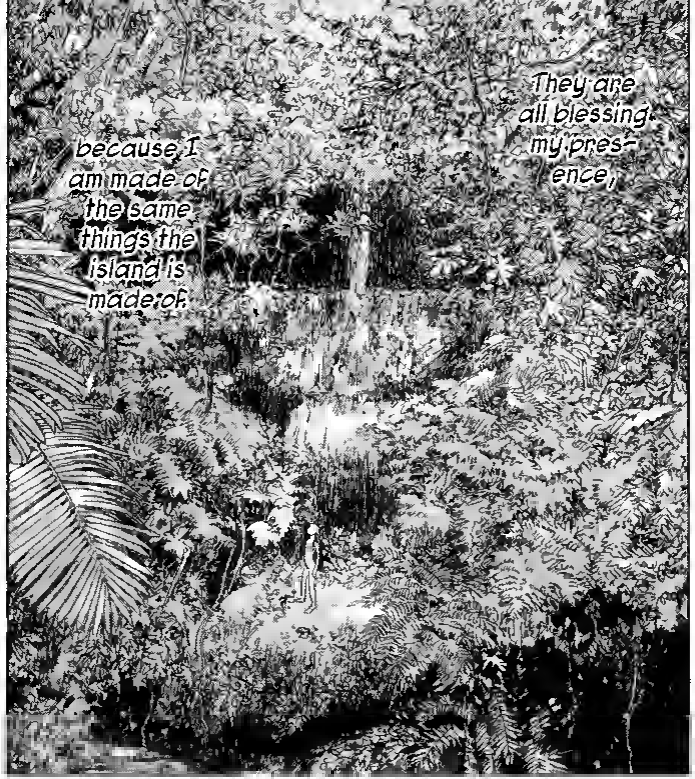

It's like I turned transparent.
All the impurities stored in my body were filtered away

Perhaps...



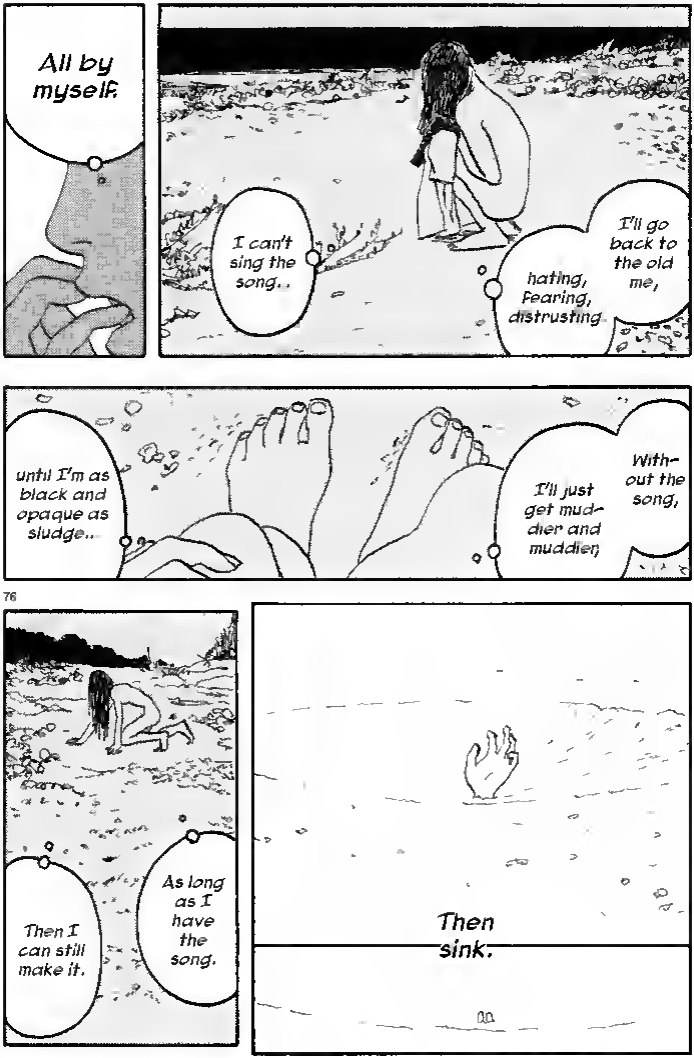
73

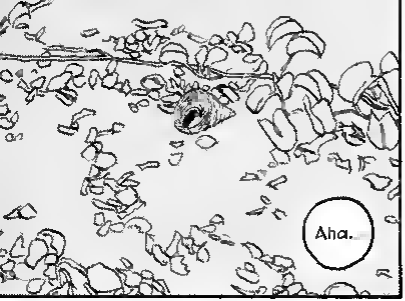



because I am made of the same things the island is made of.
They are all blessing my presence.

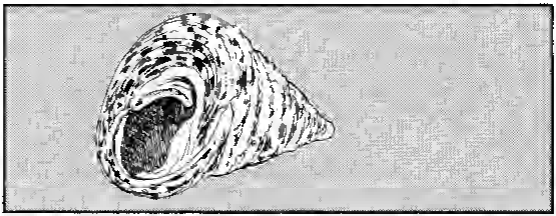
Yuji...
Yuji, you were right.

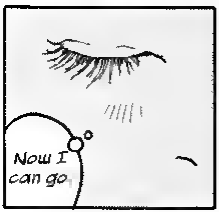
I have nothing left to eat.
But...
I need... to go back.
75
I'll just get filthy and corrupted again.
That if I leave the island,
...I'm scared

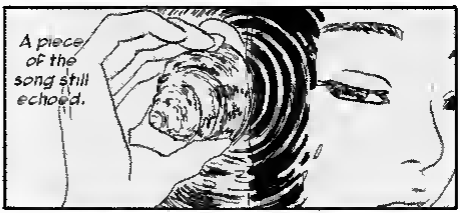

All by myself.
I can't sing the song...
I'll go back to the old me,
hating, fearing, distrusting
until I'm as black and opaque as sludge...
I'll just get mud-dier and muddier
With-out the song,
76
Then I can still make it.
As long as I have the song.
Then sink.

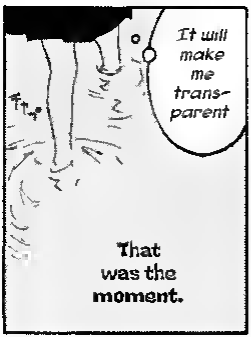

Aha.

Inside this shell...

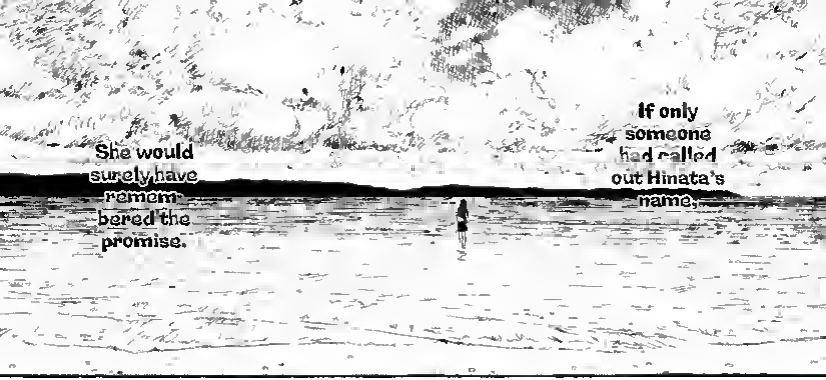


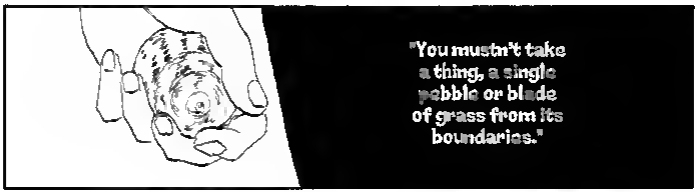

Now I can go.

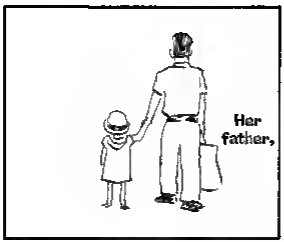

A piece of the song still echoed.

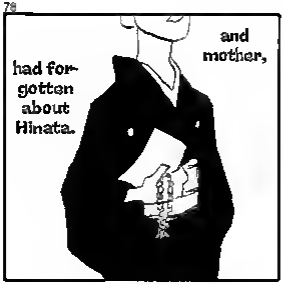

It will make me trans-parent
That was the moment.

With this,
I can be reborn any number of times.


She would surely have remembered the promise.
If only someone had called out Hinata's name.


"You mustn't take a thing, a single pebble or blade of grass from its boundaries."


Her father,

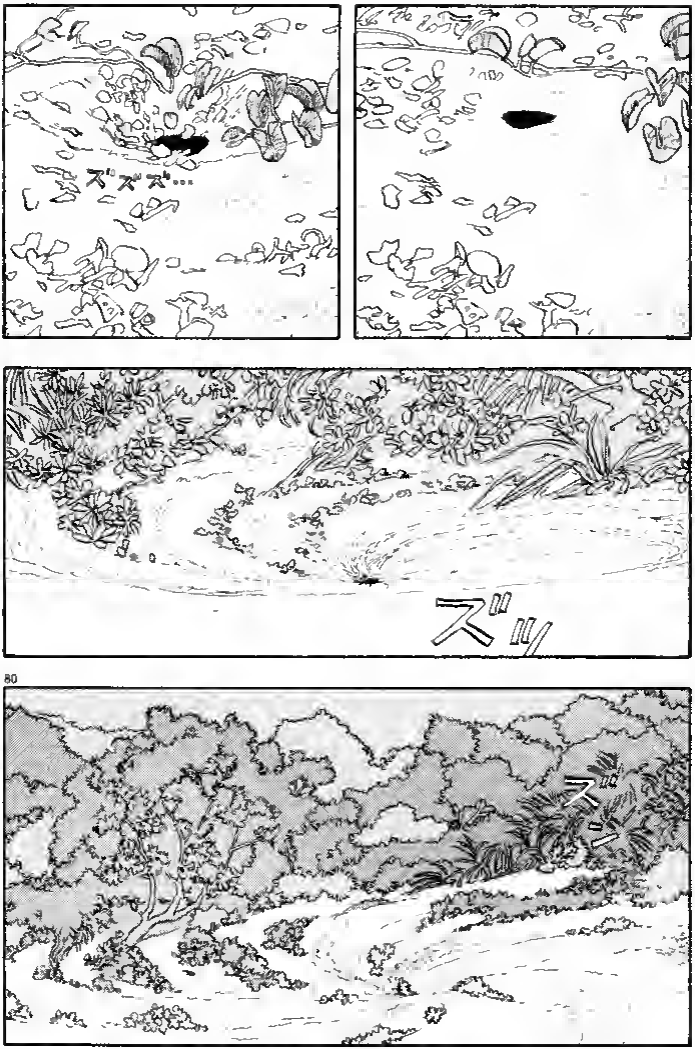

and mother,
had forgotten about Hinata.

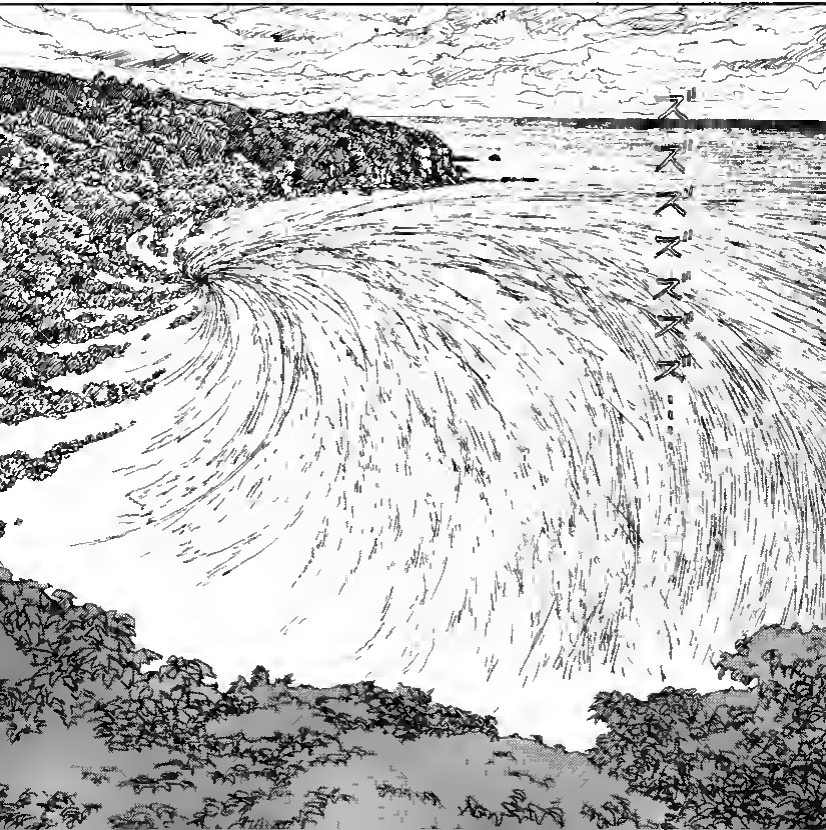
Yuji was thinking on something else.

At that moment, her friends were absorbed in other things.
I found a ton of money in the teacher's wallet
Really?

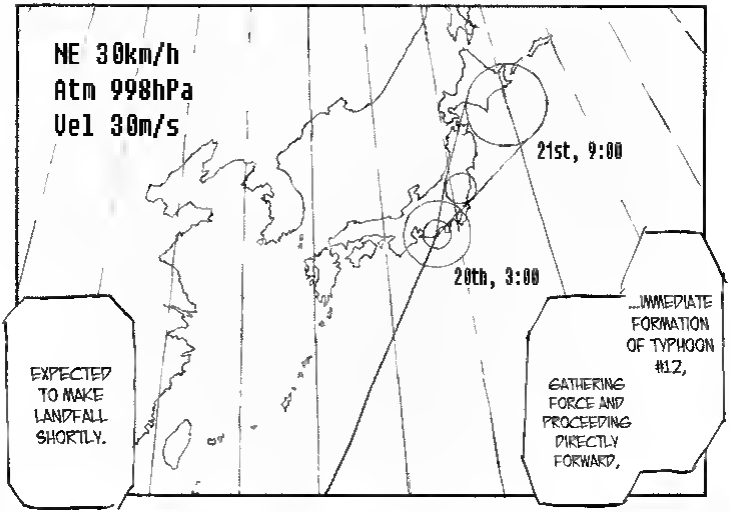
The name of the girl who broke her promise

would never be spoken again.

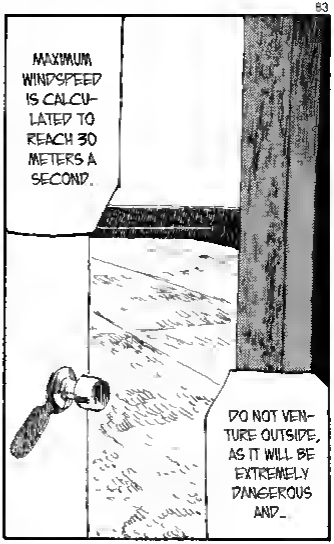

ズズズ…
ズ〃〃
80
ズ〃〃
ー

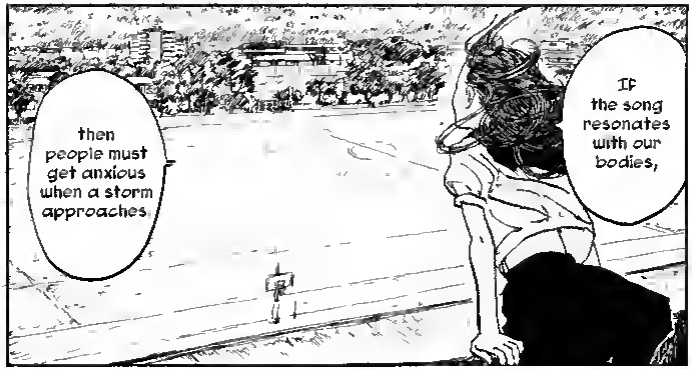

ズズズズズズ……

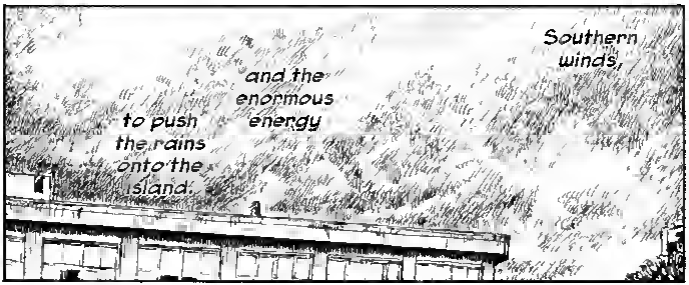
The harmony
was shattered.

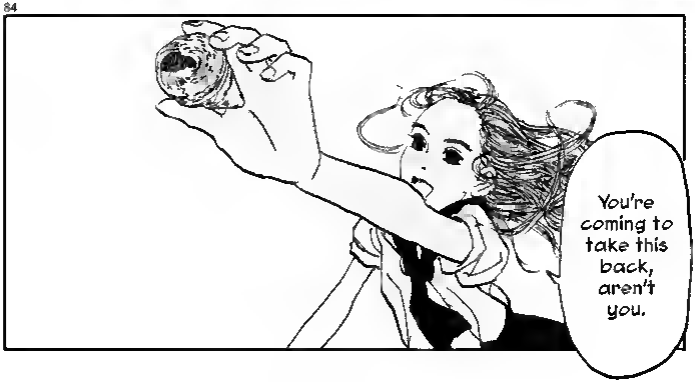

NE 30km/h
Atm 998hPa
Vel 30m/s
21st, 9:00
20th, 3:00
EXPECTED TO MAKE LANDFALL SHORTLY.
...IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF TYPHOON #12, GATHERING FORCE AND PROCEEDING DIRECTLY FORWARD,

An epic.
The storm is a song, too.


83
MAXIMUM WINDSPEED IS CALCULATED TO REACH 30 METERS A SECOND.
DO NOT VENTURE OUTSIDE, AS IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND...

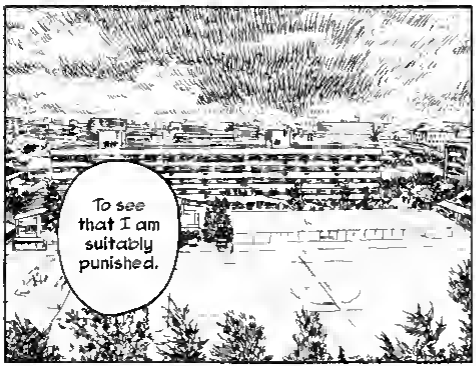

If the song resonates with our bodies,
then people must get anxious when a storm approaches

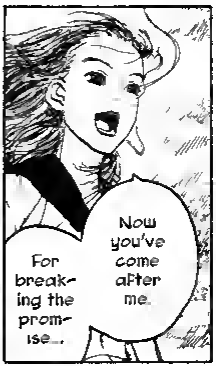

Southern winds,
and the enormous energy
to push the rains onto the island.


You're coming to take this back, aren't you.

This is not the real me.
I could no longer hear the song.
When I came to this town,

This is nothing, nothing at all


To see that I am suitably punished.


For breaking the promise...
Now you've come after me.

85

To see me killed.

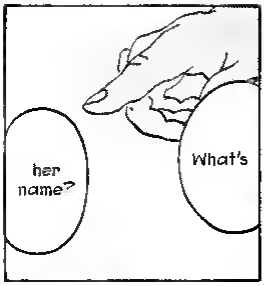
...just like this.

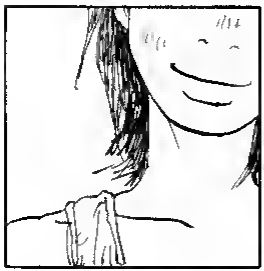
And to return my soul,

to the island.

"The girl had both the blessings of her future and her name stolen away."
"What a fortunate thing!"
"Twice the blessing, she was born with."
Both her own, and that of the original name-bearer; you see.
"And so the child that would bear her name had twice the blessing."
Try to stop and think things over; once you realize you're only doing as someone told you
"Three, find the places that are important to you, by yourself."
"Two, always keep your promises."
"One, do not make promises lightly."
"And now, the morals of this tale."
All I did...
She made her choice.
I didn't convince her to do that.

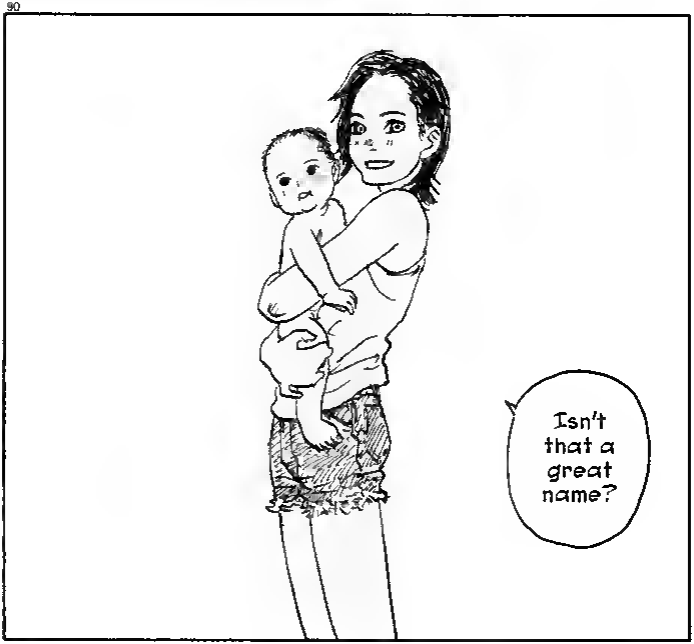
More blessed than anyone in the world...
Was wish that you be born...


What's her name?



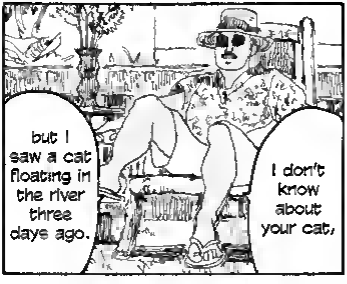
Ohh, what a darling.

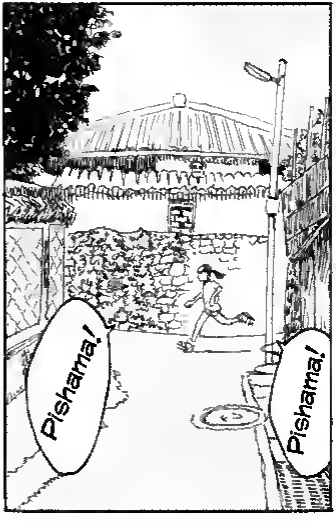
Hinata.


Isn't that a great name?

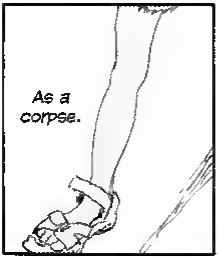
BEACH

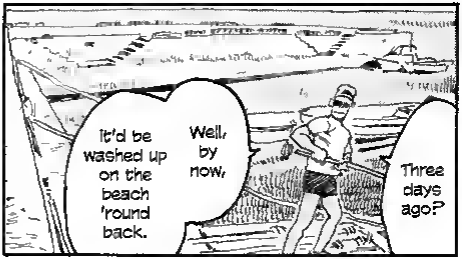
It hasn't been home in a week.
Have you seen my cat?


but I saw a cat floating in the river three days ago.
I don't know about your cat.


Pishama!
Pishama!

Pishama!
Pishama!

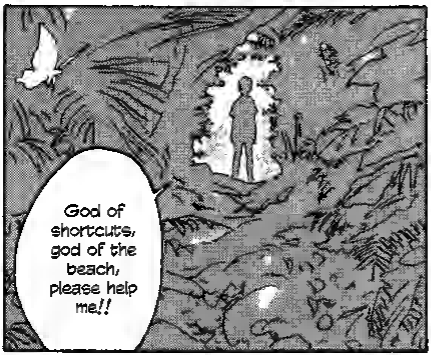

As a corpse.

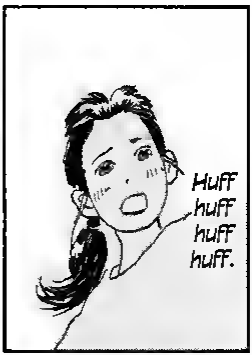

Three days ago?
Well, by now,
it'd be washed up on the beach 'round back.

Nothing but bones, picked clean by the crabs.
Pishama!

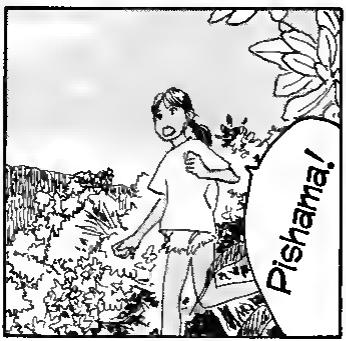
You find all sorts of things on the beach on the other side of the island. The tide washes them up.

Things washed away by the river. Things blown by the wind. Things picked up by the waves and brought to the shore.


God of shortcuts, god of the beach, please help me!!


Huff huff huff huff.

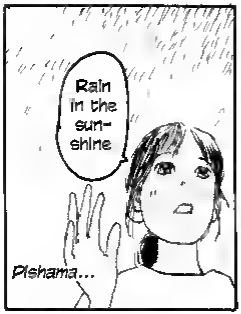
3

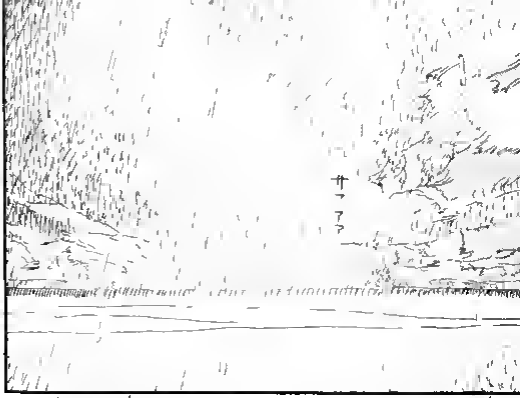

Pishama!

!

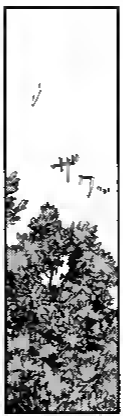
Pishrama.
Pishrama.

Pishrama...

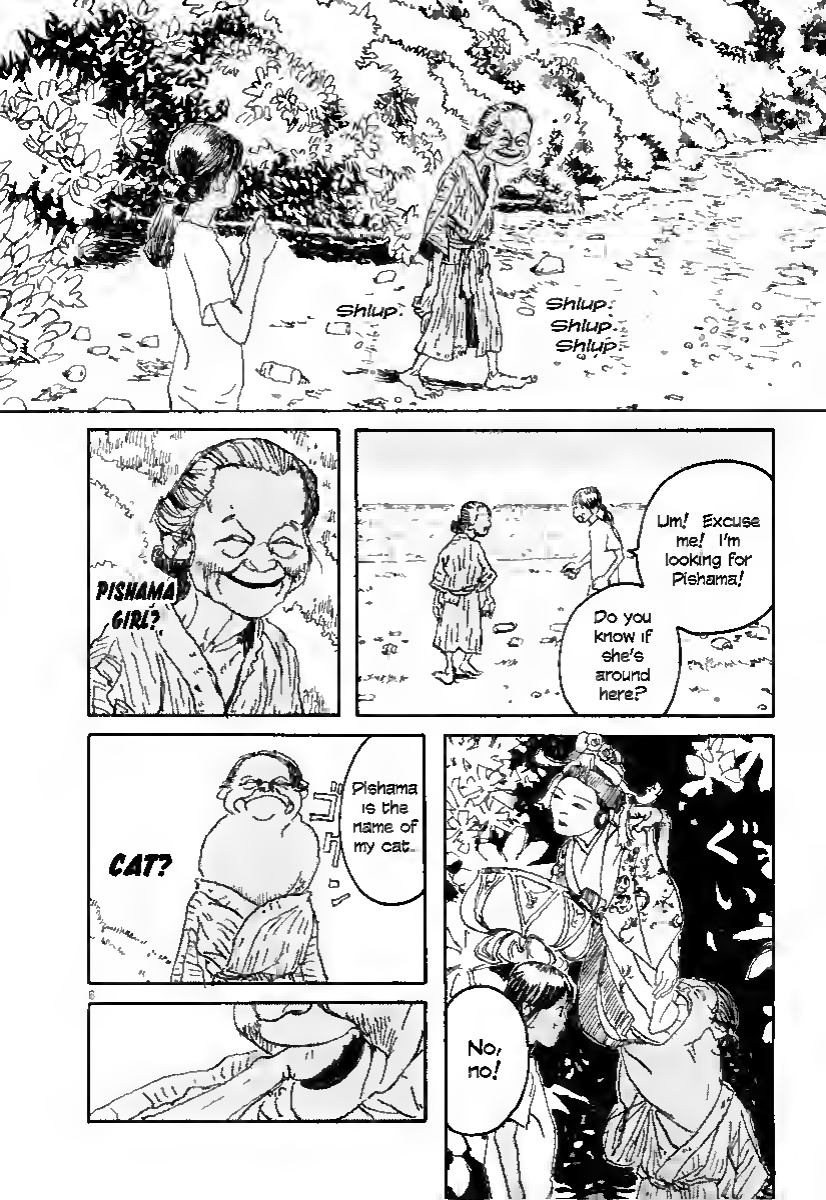

Rain in the sunshine
Pishama...

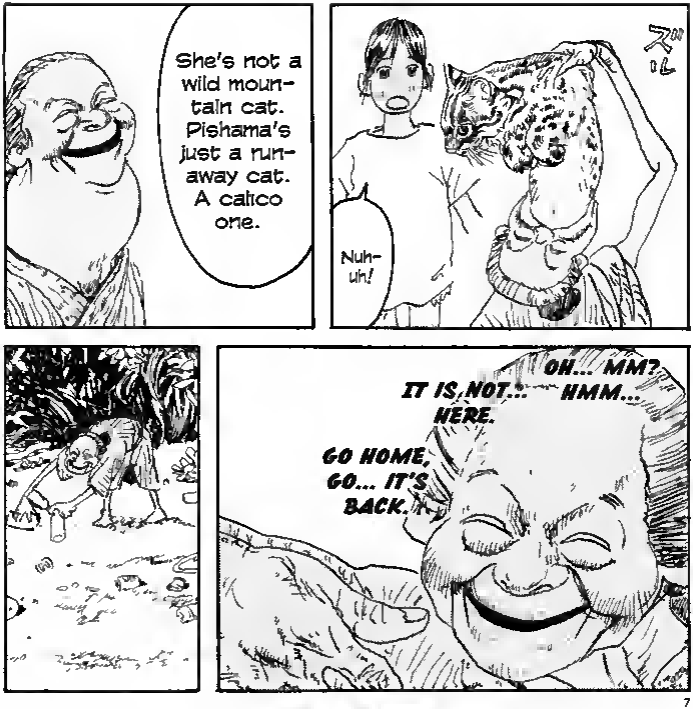

サラ

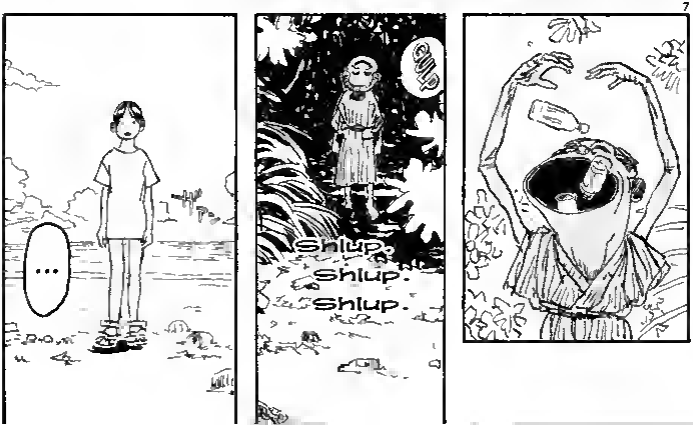
She was calling for me so much.
I should have played with her more...
I should have slept with her more...
I should have petted her more...

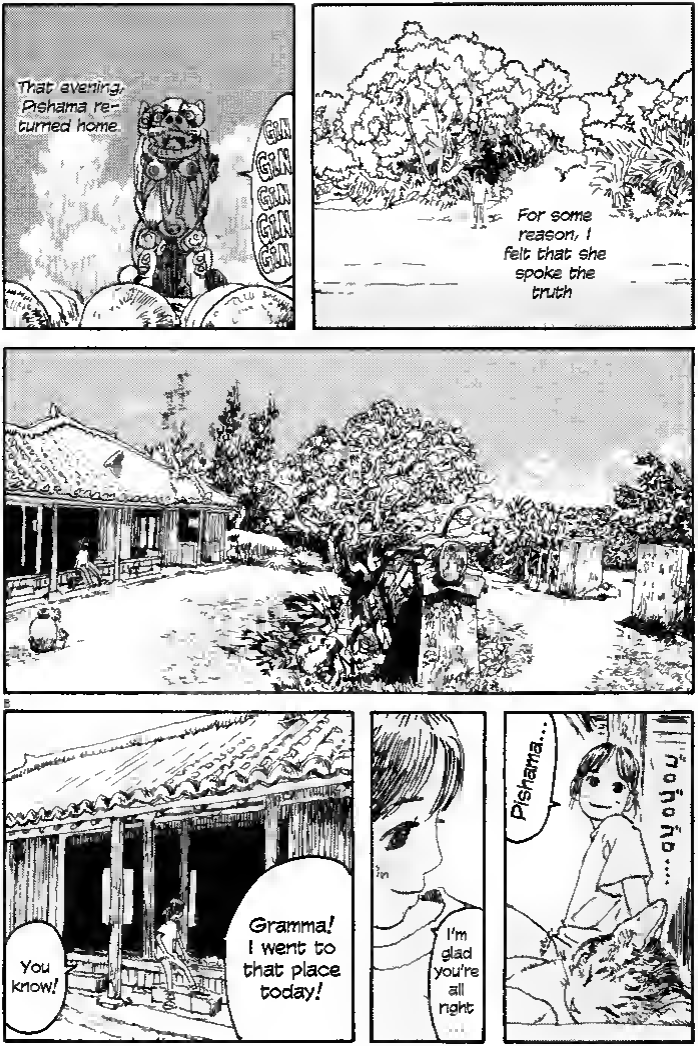

サラ

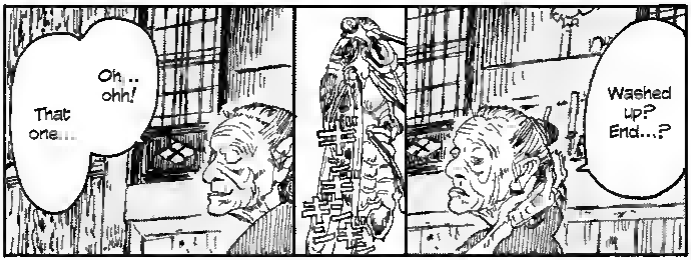
If only I hadn't gone off to play, and left her all alone...
I'm so sorry, Pishama...

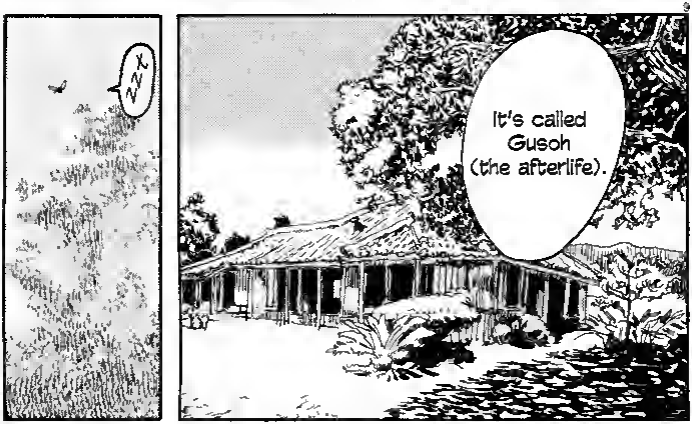

Shlup.
Shlup.
Shlup.
Shlup.
PISHAMA GIRL?
Um! Excuse me! I'm looking for Pishama!
Do you know if she's around here?
CAT?
Pishama is the name of my cat.
No, no!


She's not a wild mountain cat. Pishama's just a runaway cat. A calico one.
Nuh-uh!
OH... MM? IT IS NOT... HMM... HERE.
GO HOME, GO... IT'S BACK.


...
GULP
Shlup.
Shlup.
Shlup.


That evening, Pishama returned home.
GAN GAN GAN GAN GAN
For some reason, I felt that she spoke the truth
Pishama...
NONONONO....
I'm glad you're all right...
Gramma! I went to that place today!
You know!





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